

# SENATE BILL 322

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5lr2503  
CF HB 914

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By: **Senators Middleton and King**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Nuisance Organisms – Reward for Information**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing ~~a judge~~ the Department of Natural Resources to award a  
4 reward to a person providing information leading to a conviction for a violation of  
5 certain nuisance organism laws or regulations; requiring a certain reward to be paid  
6 from certain fine proceeds in an amount not to exceed a certain percentage of fines  
7 imposed; prohibiting a reward from being awarded to a law enforcement officer or an  
8 employee of the Department ~~of Natural Resources~~; and generally relating to  
9 nuisance organism laws and regulations.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 4–205.1(a)(1) and (8)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 4–205.1(i)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – Natural Resources**

2 4–205.1.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (8) “Nuisance organism” means a nonnative aquatic organism that will  
5 foreseeably alter and threaten to harm the ecosystem or the abundance and diversity of  
6 native or naturalized fish and other organisms.7 (i) (1) In addition to any other penalty provided under law, a person who  
8 violates a provision of this section or a regulation adopted under this section is guilty of a  
9 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine  
10 not exceeding \$2,500 or both for each offense, but not exceeding a total of \$25,000 for  
11 offenses arising out of the same enforcement action.12 (2) Each nuisance organism imported or possessed in violation of this  
13 section or a regulation adopted under this section constitutes a separate offense.14 **(3) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH, ON CONVICTION**  
15 **FOR A VIOLATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ~~JUDGE~~ DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD A**  
16 **REWARD TO A PERSON PROVIDING INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION.**17 **(II) A REWARD SHALL BE PAID FROM THE FINE PROCEEDS IN AN**  
18 **AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE–HALF OF THE FINE IMPOSED ON CONVICTION.**19 **(III) A REWARD MAY NOT BE AWARDED TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
20 **OFFICER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT.**21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

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Governor.\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.