

Chapter 171

(House Bill 242)

AN ACT concerning

**Cecil County – Natural Resources – Hunting**

FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting the owner or lessee of privately owned land in Cecil County from placing, setting, maintaining, or operating certain hunting traps within a certain distance of certain permanent human residences;~~ authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in ~~the county~~ Cecil County to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except migratory game birds, ~~wetland game birds, or quail,~~ on a Sunday on certain land during the open season for that game bird or game mammal; repealing an exception for wetland game birds from a certain authorization to allow a person in certain counties to hunt certain game birds or mammals on a Sunday on certain land during the open season for that game bird or game mammal; establishing for archery hunters in the county a safety zone of a certain size within which archery hunting may not take place except under certain circumstances; ~~repealing the prohibition against a person using, selling, possessing, setting, placing, or maintaining a snare trap in the county;~~ making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to hunting in Cecil County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources  
Section 10–410(a)(1) and (g)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources  
Section ~~10–408.1 and 10–410(a)(8), (g)(3)(i), and (p)~~ 10–410(a)(8) and (g)(3)(i)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Natural Resources~~  
~~Section 10–410(a)(1) and (g)(1)~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

~~10–408.1.~~

~~(a) A person, while trapping or attempting to trap animals, may not place, set, maintain, or operate any snares, body-gripping, or leghold traps within 150 yards of a permanent human residence.~~

~~(b) This section does not apply to:~~

~~(1) State and federal wetlands;~~

~~(2) Private wetlands as designated by the Department;~~

~~(3) Land which qualifies for agricultural assessments, as provided under § 8-209 of the Tax Property Article, and timberland and lands used for reforestation;~~

~~(4) Except in [Howard and Harford counties] **CECIL COUNTY, HARFORD COUNTY, OR HOWARD COUNTY**, owners and lessees of any privately owned land; and~~

~~(5) Owners and lessees of any privately owned land in [Howard and Harford counties] **CECIL COUNTY, HARFORD COUNTY, OR HOWARD COUNTY**, as long as a trap described in subsection (a) of this section is not within 150 yards of the permanent residence of another person.~~

~~(e) This section does not apply to the use of body-gripping traps with a jaw spread of less than 6 inches that are placed, maintained, and operated completely submerged in water.~~

~~(d) This section does not apply to the use of snap-type traps used to catch rats and mice.~~

10-410.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may not hunt any game bird or mammal on Sundays.

(8) (i) This paragraph applies only in Allegany County, **CECIL COUNTY**, Garrett County, and Washington County.

(ii) The Department may allow a person to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except migratory game birds [and wetland game birds], ~~WETLAND GAME BIRDS, OR, IN CECIL COUNTY, QUAIL~~, on a Sunday during the open season for that game bird or game mammal on:

1. Private property, subject to § 10-411 of this subtitle; and

2. Public land that is designated for Sunday hunting by the Department.

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the "safety zone", of a dwelling house, residence, church, or other building or camp occupied by human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

(3) (i) For archery hunters in Calvert County, Carroll County, **CECIL COUNTY**, Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County, or St. Mary's County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

~~(p) (1) (i) "Snare trap" means a device made of wire, synthetic cord, or other material that:~~

~~1. Is in the form of a noose with a slipknot, stop, swivel, or eyelet holes; and~~

~~2. Is designed or set with the intent of capturing an animal by the neck.~~

~~(ii) "Snare trap" includes:~~

~~1. A pole snare;~~

~~2. A hanging snare; and~~

~~3. A neck snare.~~

~~(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in Anne Arundel COUNTY, Baltimore COUNTY, Carroll COUNTY, [Cecil,] Harford COUNTY, Montgomery COUNTY, and Prince George's [counties] COUNTY, a person may not use, sell, possess, set, place, or maintain a snare trap.~~

~~(ii) In Anne Arundel County, from July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1992, a person may sell or possess a snare trap.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.