SENATE BILL 86

By: Senator Simonaire
Requested: July 13, 2019
Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2020
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

FOR the purpose of stating certain findings of the General Assembly related to fishing and hunting; establishing that it is the intent of the General Assembly that residents of the State have a right to fish and to hunt subject to certain regulations and restrictions; and generally relating to the right to fish and hunt.

BY adding to Article – Natural Resources Section 4–103 Annotated Code of Maryland (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY adding to Article – Natural Resources Section 10–102 Annotated Code of Maryland (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–103.

(A) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Fishing is a valued part of the State’s cultural and
SOCIAL HERITAGE that provides unique recreational benefits to residents of the State;

(2) FISHING plays an important part in the State’s economy by contributing to tax revenues and employment and supports the conservation, preservation, and management of the State’s fisheries, natural areas, and water resources; and

(3) The State should forever preserve residents’ right to fish.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that residents of the State have a right to fish subject to regulations and restrictions under laws that the General Assembly enacts.

10–102.

(A) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Hunting is a valued part of the State’s cultural and social heritage that provides unique recreational benefits to residents of the State;

(2) Hunting plays an important part in the State’s economy by contributing to tax revenues and employment and, through the receipt of federal funds, supports the conservation, preservation, and management of the State’s wildlife, natural areas, and related resources; and

(3) The State should forever preserve residents’ right to hunt.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that residents of the State have a right to hunt subject to regulations and restrictions under laws that the General Assembly enacts.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.