

HOUSE BILL 237

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0292
CF SB 302

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Northern Snakehead License – Gear**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain buffer zones within which a commercial northern
4 snakehead licensee may not fish using bowfishing gear; requiring a licensee who
5 fishes for northern snakehead to comply with Department of Natural Resources
6 regulations governing the use of gear; and generally relating to gear used under the
7 commercial northern snakehead license.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–701.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 4–701.1.

17 (a) There is a commercial northern snakehead license.

18 (b) **[(1)]** The license authorizes the holder to catch for sale northern snakeheads
19 in the tidal waters of the State using:

20 **[(i)] (1)** A bow and arrow attached to a retrieval line; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **[(ii)] (2)** Hook and line.

2 **[(2)** A licensee may not fish with a bow and arrow under the license within
3 100 yards of:

4 (i) Another person or vessel;

5 (ii) A public or private swimming area;

6 (iii) A diver down flag; or

7 (iv) An occupied offshore stationary blind.]

8 (c) An applicant for a license does not need to hold a tidal fish license under §
9 4–701 of this subtitle to be eligible for the license.

10 (d) A person who wishes to obtain a license shall complete and submit an
11 application for the license to the Department or any person designated by the Department.

12 (e) The term of the license is 1 year from September 1 through August 31 of the
13 following year.

14 (f) The annual license fee is \$15.

15 (g) A licensee may not transfer a license issued under this section.

16 (h) A licensee who fishes for northern snakehead under the license shall possess
17 the license.

18 **(I) A LICENSEE WHO FISHES FOR NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD UNDER THE**
19 **LICENSE SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE**
20 **USE OF GEAR.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2024.