

EMERGENCY BILL

(PRE-FILED)

M3

6lr0403

By: Delegate Arnick

Requested: September 17, 1995

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Blue Crabs - Size Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain minimum sizes and harvest limitations for certain
4 blue crabs; and making this Act an emergency measure.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

6 Article - Natural Resources

7 Section 4-809(b) and (c)

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

10 BY repealing

11 Article - Natural Resources

12 Section 4-809(e)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Natural Resources**

18 4-809.

19 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may not
20 catch or possess peeler crabs measuring less than [3] 4 inches across the shell from tip to
21 tip of spike.

22 (2) A person may possess a bycatch of peeler crabs measuring less than [3]
23 4 inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike if the bycatch is not greater than:

24 (i) 30 per bushel; or

25 (ii) 60 per float.

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1 (3) In determining the number of peelers measuring less than [3] 4 inches
2 across the shell from tip to tip of the spike, the Department shall select the minimum
3 number of bushels or floats necessary to be representative of the person's catch.

4 (c) A person may not catch or possess soft crabs measuring less than [three and
5 one-half] 4 inches across the shell from tip to tip of the spike.

6 [(e) The minimum size of crabs does not apply to mature female crabs, identified
7 by the rounded apron.]

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
9 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has
10 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
11 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
12 enacted.