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**By: Delegates Wood, Weir, McClenahan, and W. Baker (Chesapeake Bay Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Noncommercial Crabbing License**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a noncommercial crabbing license for certain individuals  
4 catching crabs in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries; requiring a certain individual  
5 catching crabs in a certain manner to obtain a license; providing for the expiration  
6 of the license; establishing certain fees for the license under certain circumstances;  
7 authorizing certain persons to sell noncommercial crabbing licenses as an agent of  
8 the Department of Natural Resources; authorizing the agent to retain a certain  
9 portion of the fee the agent collects; authorizing certain individuals to catch crabs  
10 without a license under certain circumstances; establishing daily catch limits under  
11 certain circumstances; establishing a limit on the use of certain methods under  
12 certain circumstances; requiring the Department to deposit the fees in a certain  
13 fund; prohibiting an individual who catches crabs for noncommercial purposes to  
14 sell the crabs; prohibiting a person from buying crabs from a person who catches  
15 crabs for noncommercial purposes; establishing that a violation of the provisions of  
16 this Act is a misdemeanor and that the violator is subject to a certain fine under  
17 certain circumstances; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally  
18 relating to the establishment of a noncommercial crabbing license.

19 BY adding to

20 Article - Natural Resources

21 Section 4-804.1

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

26 **Article - Natural Resources**

27 4-804.1.

28 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO ATTEMPTS TO CATCH OR CATCHES CRABS IN THE  
29 WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES FOR  
30 NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES SHALL OBTAIN A NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING  
31 LICENSE IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

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1 (1) USES MORE THAN 300 FEET BUT NOT MORE THAN 1,000 FEET OF  
2 TROTLINE;

3 (2) USES MORE THAN 10 BUT NOT MORE THAN 20 COLLAPSIBLE CRAB  
4 TRAPS;

5 (3) USES MORE THAN 10 BUT NOT MORE THAN 20 RINGS; OR

6 (4) POSSESSES MORE THAN 3 DOZEN CRABS.

7 (B) A NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSE IS VALID FOR NOT MORE THAN 1  
8 YEAR AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR.

9 (C) (1) A NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM  
10 ANY AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.

11 (2) THE ANNUAL NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSE FEES ARE:

12 (I) FOR A MARYLAND RESIDENT, \$5; AND

13 (II) FOR A NONRESIDENT, \$10.

14 (3) (I) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DESIGNATE A PERSON ENGAGED IN A  
15 COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE TO SELL NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSES AS AN  
16 AGENT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTROL AND SUPERVISION.

17 (II) AN AGENT SELLING NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSES  
18 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY RETAIN 50 CENTS FOR EACH LICENSE ISSUED BY THE  
19 AGENT.

20 (D) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY ATTEMPT TO CATCH OR CATCH CRABS IN THE  
21 WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES FOR  
22 NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES WITHOUT OBTAINING A NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING  
23 LICENSE, IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

24 (1) IS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS;

25 (2) IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED  
26 STATES AND:

27 (I) IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE;

28 (II) IS ON LEAVE FROM THE ARMED FORCES; AND

29 (III) POSSESSES A COPY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S OFFICIAL LEAVE  
30 ORDERS;

31 (3) USES NOT MORE THAN 300 FEET OF TROTLINE;

32 (4) USES NOT MORE THAN 10 COLLAPSIBLE CRAB TRAPS;

33 (5) USES NOT MORE THAN 10 RINGS;

34 (6) USES A DIPNET OR A HANDLINE AND DIPNET; AND

35 (7) POSSESSES NOT MORE THAN 3 DOZEN CRABS.

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1 (E) (1) THE CATCH LIMIT FOR A HOLDER OF A NONCOMMERCIAL  
2 CRABBING LICENSE IS:

3 (I) 1 BUSHEL DAILY; OR

4 (II) IF THERE ARE TWO OR MORE HOLDERS OF NONCOMMERCIAL  
5 CRABBING LICENSES ON A BOAT, 2 BUSHEL DAILY PER BOAT.

6 (2) HOLDERS OF NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSES ATTEMPTING  
7 TO CATCH OR CATCHING CRABS FROM A BOAT, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF  
8 LICENSE HOLDERS ABOARD, MAY NOT USE FROM ONE BOAT MORE THAN A TOTAL  
9 OF:

10 (I) 25 COLLAPSIBLE CRAB TRAPS OR RINGS; AND

11 (II) TWO 1,000-FOOT TROT LINES.

12 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEPOSIT ALL FEES RECEIVED FOR  
13 NONCOMMERCIAL CRABBING LICENSES TO THE CREDIT OF THE FISHERIES  
14 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.

15 (G) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY CATCH OR ATTEMPT TO CATCH CRABS  
16 UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT OFFER TO SELL OR SELL CRABS THAT WERE  
17 CAUGHT FOR NONCOMMERCIAL OR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

18 (2) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY BUY OR OFFER TO BUY CRABS  
19 FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CAUGHT CRABS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES  
20 UNDER THIS SECTION.

21 (3) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A  
22 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO:

23 (I) FOR FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500; AND

24 (II) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS  
25 THAN \$500 AND NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 January 1, 1997.