
By: Delegates Weir and Schisler

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Snapping Turtles**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the Department of Natural Resources may not adopt
4 a regulation that prohibits the catching of snapping turtles by a certain method for
5 certain purposes; providing certain limitations on the use of certain methods of
6 catching snapping turtles; and making stylistic changes.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Natural Resources
9 Section 4-738
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 4-738.

16 (a) [The]SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE Department
17 shall prescribe by [rules and regulations] REGULATION the methods to catch snapping
18 turtles.

19 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT PROHIBIT BY REGULATION THE
20 CATCHING OF SNAPPING TURTLES BY HOOK AND LINE AS A METHOD OF PREDATOR
21 CONTROL IN DUCK NESTING AREAS IN SHALLOW TIDAL WATER WHERE TURTLE
22 POTS CANNOT BE SET AND IN PONDS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

23 (2) A HOOK SET FOR PREDATOR CONTROL SHALL BE AT LEAST 1 INCH
24 BETWEEN BARB AND SHANK.

25 (3) A PERSON MAY NOT SET MORE THAN 30 HOOKS IN ANY DUCK
26 NESTING AREA.

27 [(b)] (C) A person may not catch or attempt to catch snapping turtles in the
28 tributary waters of Charles County from April 15 to May 31, inclusive. A person may not
29 use hook and line and trotline to catch snapping turtles in these waters.

2

1 [(c)] (D) The Department may not prohibit the use of turtle pots in areas where
2 nets are prohibited.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 1997.