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HB 69/96 - ENV

1997 Regular Session  
7lr2031

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**By: Delegates Weir and Schisler**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 1997

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

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.

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

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

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

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

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