
By: Delegate Clagett

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the membership requirements of the Wildlife Advisory
4 Commission; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to hold certain public
5 meetings at certain times regarding the issuance of certain rules and regulations;
6 and generally relating to the Wildlife Advisory Commission and the regulation of
7 hunting and fishing.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 1-102(c) and 4-602(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Natural Resources
15 Section 10-205(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Natural Resources**

21 1-102.

22 (c) (1) Unless otherwise provided by this article, each advisory commission
23 created by law consists of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the
24 Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

25 (2) (i) The Wildlife Advisory Commission is composed of 9 members
26 appointed by the Governor.

27 [(ii) 1. The Governor shall solicit nominations for vacancies on the
28 Wildlife Advisory Commission from individuals or organizations that promote the future
29 of hunting and individuals or organizations that promote the preservation of wildlife in
30 the State, with geographical distribution being a prime consideration for filling vacancies.

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1 2. There shall be representation from the farming community.]

2 (II) THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE
3 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

4 1. ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND
5 FARM BUREAU;

6 2. ONE SHALL BE AN EXPERT IN ECOLOGY;

7 3. ONE SHALL BE A VETERINARIAN;

8 4. ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HUMANE
9 SOCIETY;

10 5. TWO SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS
11 THAT PROMOTE THE FUTURE OF HUNTING IN THE STATE:

12 A. ONE OF WHOM SHALL RESIDE IN WESTERN OR CENTRAL
13 MARYLAND; AND

14 B. ONE OF WHOM SHALL RESIDE IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND
15 OR ON THE EASTERN SHORE;

16 6. TWO SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS
17 THAT PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE IN THE STATE:

18 A. ONE OF WHOM SHALL RESIDE IN WESTERN OR CENTRAL
19 MARYLAND; AND

20 B. ONE OF WHOM SHALL RESIDE IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND
21 OR ON THE EASTERN SHORE; AND

22 7. ONE MEMBER SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
23 GENERAL PUBLIC.

24 (iii) The term of a member is 4 years.

25 (iv) A member may not serve more than 2 terms on the Commission.

26 (v) The terms of members are staggered so that:

27 1. 3 shall end in 1987;

28 2. 3 shall end in 1988; and

29 3. 3 shall end in 1989.

30 (vi) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor
31 is appointed and qualifies.

32 (vii) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for
33 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

34 (3) A member shall be knowledgeable in the area of interest of the advisory
35 commission on which he serves.

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1 (4) Each advisory commission shall advise the Secretary or the
2 administration of the appropriate Department unit, pursuant to rules and regulations the
3 Secretary adopts.

4 (5) The members of each advisory commission annually shall elect a
5 chairman of the commission and may adopt procedures to conduct its meetings.

6 (6) An advisory commission member receives the compensation provided in
7 the Department budget. Every member shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses
8 incurred in performing any official duty, pursuant to rules and regulations the Secretary
9 adopts.

10 4-602.

11 (a) With due regard for distribution, abundance, economic value, and breeding
12 habits of fish in nontidal waters, the Secretary may adopt rules and regulations to extend,
13 restrict, or prohibit catching, possessing, purchasing, transporting, or exporting fish from
14 nontidal waters. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL
15 MEETINGS DURING THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS UNDER THIS
16 SECTION.

17 10-205.

18 (a) Having a due regard for the distribution, abundance, economic value, and
19 breeding habits of wildlife, the Secretary may adopt regulations to enlarge, extend,
20 restrict, or prohibit hunting, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, carrying,
21 transporting, or exporting wildlife. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT PUBLIC
22 INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS DURING THE PROCESS OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS
23 UNDER THIS SECTION.

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