
By: Delegate Guns

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 18, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Fisheries Management - Black Bass**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations regarding
4 black bass fisheries in certain waters of the State; providing for the effect of certain
5 regulations; and generally relating to the authorization of regulation of black bass
6 fisheries.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Natural Resources
9 Section 4-735
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 4-735.

16 (a) During the open season, a person may not catch by means of rod, or hook and
17 line, more than [five black bass or] ten chain pickerel in any one day.

18 (b) [(1)] A person may not catch chain pickerel in the tidal waters of the State
19 during the period from March 15 to April 30. A person may not sell, offer to sell,
20 purchase, offer to purchase, or possess any chain pickerel during this period caught in
21 tidal waters of the State.

22 [(2) A person may not sell, offer to sell, purchase, or offer to purchase any
23 black bass at any time.]

1 (c) A person may not catch [black bass or] chain pickerel in any manner in the
2 tidal waters of the State except with rod, or hook and line using natural or artificial baits.
3 A person shall return uninjured immediately to the water any [black bass or] chain
4 pickerel caught in any net, seine, or other device legally engaged in other fishing.
5 However, a person may retain no more than one day's legal creel limit of [five black bass
6 or] ten chain pickerel for his own private use during the open season.

7 (d) Chain pickerel may not be transported into or out of the State during April,
8 May, and June. [Black bass may not be transported into or out of the State at any time.]
9 Anglers, however, may possess and transport [black bass and] chain pickerel caught with
10 rod, or hook and line, in accordance with the provisions of this section. This subsection
11 does not prevent shipment in interstate commerce of live [black bass or] chain pickerel
12 for propagating, breeding, or stocking purposes under § 4-11A-19 of this title, nor
13 prevent any person from catching or engaging in catching [black bass or] chain pickerel
14 for propagating or restocking the waters of the State under the direction of the
15 Department under § 4-410 of this title.

16 (E) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPERVISE, REGULATE, AND
17 CONTROL THE HARVEST OF BLACK BASS IN THE TIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE; AND

18 (F) SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE FISHING FOR BLACK
19 BASS BY AREA, GEAR, SEASON, SIZE, AND CATCH LIMITS.

20 [(e)] (G) The provisions of this section do not apply to catching, selling,
21 purchasing, or possessing black sea bass.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the existing regulations
23 promulgated under § 4-735 of the Natural Resources Article shall remain in effect until
24 new regulations are promulgated under § 4-735(e) and (f) of the Natural Resources
25 Article as enacted by this Act are adopted.

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