

SENATE BILL 712

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1998 Regular Session
8r2595

By: **Senators Craig and Fry**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting and Trapping - Coyotes - Repeal of Sunset**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the termination of provisions of law relating to the
4 hunting and trapping of coyotes and the inclusion of coyotes under the definition
5 of "fur-bearing mammal".

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article - Natural Resources
8 Section 10-101(g), 10-404(e), and 10-406(b)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Chapter 572 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995
13 Section 2

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

16 **Article - Natural Resources**

17 10-101.

18 (g) "Fur-bearing mammal" means any coyote, raccoon, bobcat, opossum,
19 beaver, mink, muskrat, otter, fox, skunk, fisher, and long-tailed weasel, or any part,
20 offspring, or dead body of any of them.

21 10-404.

22 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or §
23 10-512(a)(2)(ii) of this title, a person may not sell, offer for sale, barter, or exchange,
24 at any time within the State any game bird or game mammal taken from the wild, in
25 the State or in another state, territory, or country.

1 (2) The prohibitions of paragraph (1) of this subsection do not apply to
2 the:

3 (i) Meat, pelt, carcass, or mounted specimen of any beaver, coyote,
4 fisher, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk, or long-tailed
5 weasel legally taken by the person;

6 (ii) Hide, hair, tail, or feet, excluding a mounted specimen of deer,
7 squirrel, or rabbit legally acquired;

8 (iii) Feathers, skin, or feet, excluding a mounted specimen of upland
9 and forest game birds legally acquired;

10 (iv) Except as prohibited by federal law, feathers of wetland game
11 birds legally acquired; or

12 (v) Antlers of deer legally acquired in another state and
13 manufactured into an article of commerce in another state.

14 10-406.

15 (b) (1) (i) A person may possess any green pelt of any fur-bearing
16 mammal until March 25 for purposes of curing the skins.

17 (ii) However, in Frederick, Garrett, Allegany, Carroll, Howard, and
18 Washington Counties, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat between
19 November 15 and February 15, of the year following, and a person may possess any
20 green mink and muskrat pelt until February 25 for purposes of curing the skin.

21 (iii) 1. In the remainder of the State except for the counties in
22 item 2 of this paragraph, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat between
23 January 1 and March 15.

24 2. In Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's,
25 Somerset, and Worcester Counties, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat
26 between December 15 and March 15 of the year following.

27 (iv) The Department may extend any muskrat season set by this
28 subsection for a period of 1 week, if the Department considers it necessary for any
29 reason, including weather conditions.

30 (2) A person may possess the meat of muskrat or otter no more than 10
31 days after the close of open season for these mammals in order to dispose of the meat
32 for food. However, a person may apply for a permit to store the meat during the closed
33 season if the meat was hunted lawfully.

34 (3) A muskrat damaging any embankment or impoundment may be
35 destroyed by the owner at any time.

1 (4) A person may hunt or trap and possess the pelt or meat of raccoon or
2 opossum during those periods and under the restrictions, including bag limits, the
3 Department may establish by regulation.

4 (5) In Charles and Dorchester Counties, a person may hunt or trap a fox
5 or possess the pelt of a fox at any time of year.

6 (6) A person may hunt or trap on the person's land a coyote, fox or skunk
7 that is damaging or destroying the personal or real property of the landowner.

8 (7) A person may:

9 (i) Trap a coyote during the trapping season established by the
10 Department; or

11 (ii) Hunt a coyote:

12 1. While the person is legally hunting for any other species of
13 game bird or mammal, by any method legal for use at the time in hunting that other
14 species; or

15 2. At any time of year, by predator calling.

16 **Chapter 572 of the Acts of 1995**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 1995. [It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of
19 September 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
20 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 July 1, 1998.