

SENATE BILL 712

Unofficial Copy
M3

1998 Regular Session
8lr2595

By: **Senators Craig and Fry**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Economic and Environmental Affairs, February 25, 1998

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 20, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of ~~repealing~~ extending the termination of provisions of law relating
4 to the hunting and trapping of coyotes and the inclusion of coyotes under the
5 definition of "fur-bearing mammal"; requiring the Department of Natural
6 Resources to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date on
7 certain aspects of the coyote population in the State; and generally relating to
8 the hunting and trapping of coyotes.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article - Natural Resources
11 Section 10-101(g), 10-404(e), and 10-406(b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Chapter 572 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995
16 Section 2

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

1 **Article - Natural Resources**

2 10-101.

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

6 10-404.

7 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or §
8 10-512(a)(2)(ii) of this title, a person may not sell, offer for sale, barter, or exchange,
9 at any time within the State any game bird or game mammal taken from the wild, in
10 the State or in another state, territory, or country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 10-406.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (7) A person may:

18 (i) Trap a coyote during the trapping season established by the
 19 Department; or

20 (ii) Hunt a coyote:

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

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

25 **Chapter 572 of the Acts of 1995**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 27 October 1, 1995. {It shall remain effective for a period of ~~3~~ 5 years and, at the end
 28 of ~~September 30, 1998~~ ~~September 30, 2001~~ September 30, 2000, with no further action
 29 required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force
 30 and effect.}

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
 32 Natural Resources shall report to the General Assembly on or before December 31,
 33 2000, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the status and
 34 trends of the coyote population in the State, including the significance of the changing
 35 role of the coyote population in the State's natural environment and any other impact
 36 of the coyote population on the State's natural environment.

1 SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
2 effect July 1, 1998.