
By: **Delegate Owings**
Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations
Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, March 6, 2000

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 25, 2000

CHAPTER _____

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 1999 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Chapter 572 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995, as amended by
13 Chapter 200 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998
14 Section 2

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

Article - Natural Resources

10-101.

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

10-404.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10-406.

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

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

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

2. In Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, and Worcester Counties, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat 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, as amended by Chapter 200 of the Acts of**
26 **1998**

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

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 July 1, 2000.

