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By: **Delegates W. Baker, Walkup, and D'Amato**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Crab Scrapes**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to establish  
4 certain weight regulations for crab scrapes; prohibiting the use of certain crab  
5 scrapes in certain areas; and generally relating to scraping for crabs.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Natural Resources  
8 Section 4-803  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article - Natural Resources**

14 4-803.

15 (a) The Department may adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
16 following purposes:

17 (1) To restrict catching and possessing any blue crab;

18 (2) The methods by which crabs are taken;

19 (3) To close or open any specified area to catch crabs;

20 (4) To prohibit or restrict devices used to catch crabs;

21 (5) To establish seasons to catch crabs; [and]

22 (6) TO ESTABLISH THE WEIGHT OF CRAB SCRAPES, EXCEPT AN  
23 INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT USE A CRAB SCRAPE OTHER THAN A SINGLE CRAB SCRAPE  
24 THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 45 POUNDS IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND  
25 TIDAL TRIBUTARIES NORTH OF A LINE EXTENDING IN AN WESTERLY DIRECTION

1 FROM WADES POINT IN TALBOT COUNTY TO KENT POINT IN QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY  
2 TO CURTIS POINT IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INCLUDING THE WATERS OF THE WYE  
3 AND MILES RIVERS AND THEIR TIDAL TRIBUTARIES; AND

4           (7)       To establish minimum size limits for hard, soft, and peeler crabs.  
5 However, this section does not permit the Department to change existing license fees  
6 for catching, picking, canning, packing, or shipping cooked hard or soft crabs or crab  
7 meat; or for selling, or shipping live hard or soft crabs by barrel or crate. The  
8 Department may set license fees on types of gear or equipment if not otherwise set by  
9 law.

10       (b)       The Department's regulations may not become effective under this section  
11 until the Department first holds public hearings. The Department shall advertise the  
12 time, place, and purpose of the hearings in one newspaper of general daily circulation  
13 in the State, and at least in one newspaper circulated in the affected region of each  
14 county whose waters may be directly affected by the proposed regulations for 2  
15 successive weeks in advance of the hearings.

16       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2001.