
By: **Delegates Guns, Weir, and D'Amato**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 14, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Mute Swans - Management**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a
4 program to control the population of mute swans; requiring the Department to
5 include the managed harvest of adult mute swans in this program; requiring the
6 Department to solicit licensed hunters to participate in the managed harvest of
7 adult mute swans; and generally relating to the management of the mute swan
8 population.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - Natural Resources
11 Section 10-211
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2000 Replacement Volume)

14 **Preamble**

15 WHEREAS, The nonnative bird species known as the mute swan is causing
16 ecological damage to areas of the Chesapeake Bay;

17 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the population of mute swans in the State has
18 grown from 5 mute swans in 1962 to about 4,000 mute swans at present;

19 WHEREAS, Mute swans are aggressive birds that have forced other birds, such
20 as least terns and black skimmers out of areas, such as Hooper's Island, where these
21 other waterfowl naturally congregate;

1 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that a mute swan can eat between 8 and 9 pounds
2 of submerged aquatic vegetation per day;

3 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the mute swan population destroys between 9
4 and 11 million pounds of submerged aquatic vegetation per year; now, therefore,

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

7 **Article - Natural Resources**

8 10-211.

9 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO CONTROL THE
10 POPULATION OF THE NONNATIVE BIRD SPECIES KNOWN AS THE MUTE SWAN.

11 (B) (1) THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE
12 THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS.

13 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT LICENSED HUNTERS TO
14 PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS ESTABLISHED
15 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

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