

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 319 (Delegate Bozman, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Prohibited Species of Crabs**

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This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt regulations that limit or prohibit the importation, use, catching, or possessing of specified nonnative crab species (the green crab, the Japanese shore crab, and the Chinese mitten crab).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources. DNR currently monitors tackle shops and anglers for other species. Any additional monitoring is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. According to DNR, nonnative species of crabs are imported and sold as bait. Because DNR reports that substitute baits are available and that the importation of these species is minimal, the bill is not anticipated to have a significant impact on small businesses.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** DNR may adopt rules and regulations to restrict catching and possessing any blue crab. Pursuant to its authority to permit aquaculture operations, DNR may prohibit the raising of nonnative species. DNR does not have the authority, however, to limit the importation of nonnative crab species.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 1, 2001  
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