
By: **Delegate Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disease Prevention - Scientific Collection Permits - Turtles**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing the breeding, raising, keeping, and possession of turtles

4 by a person who has obtained a certain scientific collecting permit.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

6 Article - Health - General

7 Section 18-219

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article - Natural Resources

12 Section 10-909

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 18-219.

19 (a) The Secretary may prohibit the importation, selling, trading, purchasing,
20 bartering, breeding, raising, keeping, or possession of any animals found to be
21 dangerous to human health and safety.

22 (b) This section does not apply to:

23 (1) Domestic cats;

24 (2) Domestic dogs;

25 (3) Domestic ferrets;

- 1 (4) Animals used for agricultural purposes;
- 2 (5) Animals used for scientific purposes;
- 3 (6) Animals used for educational purposes;
- 4 (7) Animals used for public exhibitions; or
- 5 (8) Any animal that the Secretary determines is not a threat to human
6 health and safety.

7 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE
8 BREEDING, RAISING, KEEPING, OR POSSESSION OF TURTLES BY A PERSON WHO HAS
9 OBTAINED A SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING PERMIT UNDER § 10-909 OF THE NATURAL
10 RESOURCES ARTICLE.

11 **Article - Natural Resources**

12 10-909.

13 (a) Any properly accredited person of known scientific attainment desiring to
14 collect wildlife, nests, or eggs from the wild for scientific or educational purposes shall
15 first obtain a scientific collection permit from the Secretary.

16 (b) The Secretary may issue a scientific collecting permit, on the payment of a
17 reasonable fee, to any properly accredited person who has demonstrated a legitimate
18 scientific or educational need for the requested wildlife.

19 (c) The Secretary may adopt regulations governing the issuance, revocation,
20 terms, and conditions of the permit.

21 (d) The permit:

22 (1) Shall expire December 31 of the issuing year; and

23 (2) May not be transferred to another person.

24 (e) The permit becomes void on proof that the permittee has:

25 (1) Captured or killed any wildlife;

26 (2) Taken any nests or eggs for other than scientific or educational
27 purposes; or

28 (3) Taken or possessed any wildlife, nests, or eggs not authorized by the
29 permit.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2002.