

---

By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2002

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2002

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting - Regulation of Moorings - Blinds and Blind Sites**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a local governing body to develop and administer its  
4 own mooring program, subject to approval by the Department of Natural  
5 Resources; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; altering  
6 certain provisions governing the regulation of moorings to provide that a local  
7 governing body that develops a mooring program may not be precluded from  
8 allowing a mooring even if the mooring may limit or affect hunting on certain  
9 land or blinds or blind sites; prohibiting, in Kent County, a person from hunting,  
10 between certain dates, from certain blinds or blind sites that are within a  
11 certain distance of a certain mooring; and generally relating to the regulation of  
12 moorings and blinds and blind sites.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Natural Resources  
15 Section 8-704(b) and 10-608(g)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Natural Resources**

21 8-704.

22 (b) (1) In order to protect the public safety, welfare, and recreational  
23 interests in waters of the State, the Department may adopt a program relating to the

1 placement of buoys, mooring buoys, and other apparatus used to secure, berth, or  
2 moor vessels in the waters of the State. The Department shall consult with any  
3 county affected by the program.

4 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH  
5 REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER ITS  
6 OWN MOORING PROGRAM.

7 (3) (I) SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT, A LOCAL  
8 GOVERNING BODY MAY DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER ITS OWN MOORING PROGRAM.

9 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE  
10 CONTRARY, IF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY DEVELOPS A MOORING PROGRAM, THE  
11 LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MAY NOT BE PRECLUDED FROM ALLOWING A MOORING  
12 EVEN IF THE MOORING MAY LIMIT OR AFFECT HUNTING ON NEARBY LAND OR AN  
13 OFFSHORE STATIONARY BLIND OR BLIND SITE.

14 10-608.

15 (g) (1) In Kent County and Queen Anne's County and on the nontidal waters  
16 of the Potomac River and its nontidal tributaries, only a riparian landowner owning  
17 the amount of shoreline required under § 10-607(d) of this subtitle or a landowner's  
18 lessee, licensee, or assignee may erect and maintain a stationary blind or blind site.

19 (2) IN KENT COUNTY, A PERSON MAY NOT HUNT BETWEEN MARCH 1  
20 AND NOVEMBER 1 FROM A LICENSED SHORE BLIND OR OFFSHORE STATIONARY  
21 BLIND OR BLIND SITE THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN 150 YARDS OF A MOORING THAT IS  
22 OCCUPIED AND HAS BEEN ISSUED A PERMIT BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 July 1, 2002.