
By: **Delegates Boutin, Cane, Glassman, McComas, O'Donnell, Owings, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Hunting Wild Waterfowl - Susquehanna Flats**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain distances that a person must be from shore when
4 hunting wild waterfowl in the Susquehanna Flats while the person is standing
5 in water on the natural bottom, in a boat that is drifting or being sculled, or in
6 a boat that is anchored; and generally relating to hunting wild waterfowl in the
7 Susquehanna Flats.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 10-604 through 10-606
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-604.

17 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
18 bottom only in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, the nontidal waters of the
19 Potomac River, and in other waters of the State in areas and on days the Department
20 prescribes by regulation.

21 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
22 bottom at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

23 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural
24 bottom shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind
25 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

26 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the
27 natural bottom shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at

1 mean low water except in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF
2 THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, or while hunting at a licensed stationary blind or blind
3 site.

4 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
5 WILD WATERFOWL WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM SHALL
6 BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW
7 WATER.

8 (e) A person may not hunt wild waterfowl while standing in State waters on
9 the natural bottom when the natural bottom is privately owned, unless the hunter
10 has the written permission of the landowner.

11 (f) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not
12 hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural bottom unless
13 accompanied by a Maryland resident.

14 10-605.

15 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being
16 sculled, only in:

17 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River, Conococheague Creek, and
18 the Monocacy River;

19 (2) The Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of the Sassafras
20 River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

21 (3) Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight, Assawoman Bay,
22 and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

23 (4) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

24 (b) While hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being sculled,
25 a person shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind
26 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

27 (c) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being
28 sculled shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low
29 water except in the nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE
30 SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, in Conococheague Creek, and in the Monocacy River.

31 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
32 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS DRIFTING OR BEING SCULLED SHALL BE
33 AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW
34 WATER.

35 (d) A nonresident may not hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or
36 being sculled unless accompanied by a Maryland resident.

1 10-606.

2 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored only in:

3 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River;

4 (2) The waters of the Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of
5 the Sassafras River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

6 (3) The waters of Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight,
7 Assawoman Bay, and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

8 (4) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

9 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored at a
10 licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

11 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall remain
12 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or another person hunting
13 wild waterfowl offshore.

14 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall
15 be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water except
16 in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA
17 FLATS, or unless anchored at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

18 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING
19 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS ANCHORED SHALL BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS
20 FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW WATER.

21 (e) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not
22 hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored unless accompanied by a Maryland
23 resident.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
25 effect October 1, 2003.