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By: **Delegate V. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Diamondback Terrapin Day**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the commemorative Diamondback Terrapin Day to  
4 fall on a certain date of each year.

5 BY adding to

6 Article - State Government

7 Section 13-405

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2004 Replacement Volume)

10 **Preamble**

11 WHEREAS, The current population status and general health of the  
12 diamondback terrapin stock is unknown; and

13 WHEREAS, Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that the population is again  
14 in decline due to reduced habitat, increasingly scattered nesting sites that are more  
15 vulnerable to predators, increased harvests, by-catch from crab pots, and naturally  
16 low reproductive rates; and

17 WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources is currently assessing the  
18 population of the diamondback terrapin and enhancing and streamlining harvest  
19 reporting requirements; and

20 WHEREAS, To support the viability of the diamondback terrapin, the  
21 Department will propose: (1) reducing the harvest season from 9 to 3 months in order  
22 to eliminate indirect by-catch during the warm feeding season and to facilitate  
23 reporting requirements; (2) requiring and enforcing the use of devices on crab pots  
24 designed to eliminate the by-catch of diamondback terrapins in tributaries; and (3)  
25 reexamining its management and conservation efforts for the diamondback terrapin;  
26 and

1 WHEREAS, Few native species are as unique and popular as the diamondback  
2 terrapin, Maryland's official State reptile and the mascot for the University of  
3 Maryland; now, therefore,

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

6 **Article - State Government**

7 13-405.

8 THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM MAY 13 AS DIAMONDBACK  
9 TERRAPIN DAY.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2005.