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By: **Delegate Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **Natural Resources - Black Bears - Establishment of Population in Each**  
3                           **County**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to establish a  
5 program to ensure that, by a certain date, a black bear population is introduced  
6 into each county in the State; and generally relating to black bears in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Natural Resources  
9 Section 10-2A-06  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

14                           **Article - Natural Resources**

15 10-2A-06.

16 (a) The Secretary shall establish programs, including acquisition of land or  
17 aquatic habitat or interests in the land or aquatic habitats, necessary for the  
18 conservation of nongame, threatened, or endangered species of wildlife or plants. The  
19 Secretary shall use all vested authority to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

20 (b) In carrying out programs authorized by this section, the Secretary shall  
21 consult with the State Secretary of Agriculture and other states having a common  
22 interest in particular species of nongame, endangered, or threatened species of  
23 wildlife or plants. The Secretary may enter into agreements with federal agencies,  
24 other states, political subdivisions of the State, or with individuals with respect to  
25 programs designed to conserve nongame, endangered, or threatened species of  
26 wildlife or plants, including agreements for administration and management  
27 established under this section or utilized for conservation of nongame, endangered, or  
28 threatened species of wildlife or plants.

1 (c) The Governor shall review other programs administered by the Governor  
2 and utilize these programs in furtherance of the purposes of this subtitle. All State  
3 departments and agencies, in consultation with and with the assistance of the  
4 Secretary, shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this subtitle  
5 by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened  
6 species listed pursuant to § 10-2A-04(f) of this subtitle, and by taking any action  
7 necessary to insure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them do not  
8 jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered species or threatened species or  
9 result in the destruction or modification of habitat of the species which is deemed by  
10 the Secretary to be critical.

11 (d) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT, BY  
12 OCTOBER 1, 2012, A BLACK BEAR POPULATION IS INTRODUCED INTO EACH COUNTY  
13 IN THE STATE.

14 (E) The Secretary shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2006.