

HOUSE BILL 914

M2

5lr2551
CF SB 322

By: **Delegate Frush**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Nuisance Organisms – Reward for Information**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a judge to award a reward to a person providing
4 information leading to a conviction for a violation of certain nuisance organism laws
5 or regulations; requiring a certain reward to be paid from certain fine proceeds in an
6 amount not to exceed a certain percentage of fines imposed; prohibiting a reward
7 from being awarded to a law enforcement officer or an employee of the Department
8 of Natural Resources; and generally relating to nuisance organism laws and
9 regulations.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 4–205.1(a)(1) and (8)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Natural Resources
17 Section 4–205.1(i)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 4–205.1.

24 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (8) “Nuisance organism” means a nonnative aquatic organism that will
2 foreseeably alter and threaten to harm the ecosystem or the abundance and diversity of
3 native or naturalized fish and other organisms.

4 (i) (1) In addition to any other penalty provided under law, a person who
5 violates a provision of this section or a regulation adopted under this section is guilty of a
6 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine
7 not exceeding \$2,500 or both for each offense, but not exceeding a total of \$25,000 for
8 offenses arising out of the same enforcement action.

9 (2) Each nuisance organism imported or possessed in violation of this
10 section or a regulation adopted under this section constitutes a separate offense.

11 **(3) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH, ON CONVICTION**
12 **FOR A VIOLATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE JUDGE MAY AWARD A REWARD TO A**
13 **PERSON PROVIDING INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION.**

14 **(II) A REWARD SHALL BE PAID FROM THE FINE PROCEEDS IN AN**
15 **AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE-HALF OF THE FINE IMPOSED ON CONVICTION.**

16 **(III) A REWARD MAY NOT BE AWARDED TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT**
17 **OFFICER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2015.