

Chapter 670

(Senate Bill 94)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Unprotected Birds – ~~Pigeons~~ *and Mammals*

FOR the purpose of adding “pigeon” to the defined term “unprotected bird” for the purposes of the wildlife and hunting laws of the State; ~~prohibiting a person from shooting at a pigeon for certain purposes~~ *engaging in certain activity while hunting or pursuing unprotected birds or mammals; prohibiting a person from conducting or participating in a certain organized contest for which unprotected birds are launched in a certain manner as targets for contest participants; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; establishing a certain penalty for a violation of certain provisions of this Act;* making a technical correction; and generally relating to unprotected birds.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–101(a) and 10–401(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–101(u) *and 10–424*
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

~~BY adding to
Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–410(q)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)~~

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

Article – Natural Resources

10–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(u) “Unprotected bird” means any English sparrow [and], **PIGEON, OR** European starling or any part, egg, offspring, or dead body of any of them.

10-401.

(a) Except for unprotected birds and game birds hunted during open season, a person may not hunt, destroy, or possess in any manner any wild bird within the State whether killed in the State or in any other state, territory, or country.

~~10-410.~~

~~(Q) A PERSON MAY NOT SHOOT AT A PIGEON FOR AMUSEMENT OR AS A TEST OF SKILL IN MARKSMANSHIP, WHERE PIGEONS ARE MANUALLY OR WITH ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE LAUNCHED OR OTHERWISE IMMEDIATELY PRESENTED TO THE SHOOTER FROM A FIXED LOCATION WITHIN A PREDEFINED SHOOTING FIELD.~~

10-424.

(A) While engaged in hunting or pursuing any wildlife OR UNPROTECTED BIRDS OR MAMMALS, a person may not:

(1) Carelessly or negligently shoot, wound, or kill another person; or

(2) Intentionally or willfully destroy or damage:

(i) Any real property, personal property, or farm livestock of another person; or

(ii) A domesticated animal that is in a safety zone established under § 10-410(g) of this subtitle.

(B) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT CONDUCT OR PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZED CONTEST FOR PRIZES OR MONETARY AWARDS FOR WHICH UNPROTECTED BIRDS ARE LAUNCHED BY MECHANICAL OR MANUAL MEANS AS TARGETS FOR THE CONTEST PARTICIPANTS.

(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY:

(I) TO THE LETHAL TAKING OF UNPROTECTED BIRDS TO PROTECT OR MANAGE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY, DOMESTIC ANIMALS, LIVESTOCK, OR WILDLIFE; OR

(II) DURING AN OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED HUNTING OR DOG TRAINING ACTIVITY.

(3) A PERSON IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF \$25 FOR EACH UNPROTECTED BIRD KILLED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.