

SENATE BILL 86

M2

0lr0324

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Requested: July 13, 2019

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights**

3 FOR the purpose of stating certain findings of the General Assembly related to fishing and
4 hunting; establishing that it is the intent of the General Assembly that residents of
5 the State have a right to fish and to hunt subject to certain regulations and
6 restrictions; and generally relating to the right to fish and hunt.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Natural Resources

9 Section 4–103

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Natural Resources

14 Section 10–102

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

20 **4–103.**

21 **(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:**

22 **(1) FISHING IS A VALUED PART OF THE STATE’S CULTURAL AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SOCIAL HERITAGE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE RECREATIONAL BENEFITS TO
2 RESIDENTS OF THE STATE;

3 (2) FISHING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE STATE'S ECONOMY
4 BY CONTRIBUTING TO TAX REVENUES AND EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORTS THE
5 CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S FISHERIES,
6 NATURAL AREAS, AND WATER RESOURCES; AND

7 (3) THE STATE SHOULD FOREVER PRESERVE RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO
8 FISH.

9 (B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTS OF THE
10 STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO FISH SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
11 UNDER LAWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS.

12 10-102.

13 (A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

14 (1) HUNTING IS A VALUED PART OF THE STATE'S CULTURAL AND
15 SOCIAL HERITAGE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE RECREATIONAL BENEFITS TO
16 RESIDENTS OF THE STATE;

17 (2) HUNTING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE STATE'S ECONOMY
18 BY CONTRIBUTING TO TAX REVENUES AND EMPLOYMENT AND, THROUGH THE
19 RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, SUPPORTS THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND
20 MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE, NATURAL AREAS, AND RELATED
21 RESOURCES; AND

22 (3) THE STATE SHOULD FOREVER PRESERVE RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO
23 HUNT.

24 (B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTS OF THE
25 STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO HUNT SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
26 UNDER LAWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2020.