

SENATE BILL 318

M2

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1163
CF 1lr1731

By: **Senators Bailey and Simonaire**

Requested: October 27, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

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 2020 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Natural Resources

14 Section 10–102

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 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:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) FISHING IS A VALUED PART OF THE STATE'S CULTURAL AND**
2 **SOCIAL HERITAGE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE RECREATIONAL BENEFITS TO**
3 **RESIDENTS OF THE STATE; AND**

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

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

11 **10-102.**

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

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

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

21 **(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTS OF THE**
22 **STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO HUNT SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**
23 **UNDER LAWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2021.