

Chapter 538

(Senate Bill 102)

AN ACT concerning

**Natural Resources – Recreational Crabbing License – Exemption Gear –  
Individuals Under the Age of 16 Years**

FOR the purpose of ~~exempting persons under a certain age from the requirement to obtain a recreational crabbing license to catch or attempt to catch crabs for recreational purposes in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries; and generally relating to exemptions from the requirement to obtain a recreational crabbing license~~ authorizing an individual under a certain age to use certain gear when catching or attempting to catch crabs for recreational purposes without a recreational crabbing license; and generally relating to recreational crabbing.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources  
Section 4–805  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

**4–805.**

~~A PERSON MAY CATCH OR ATTEMPT TO CATCH CRABS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES WITHOUT A RECREATIONAL CRABBING LICENSE IF THE PERSON IS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS.~~

AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS CATCHING OR ATTEMPTING TO CATCH CRABS IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES WITHOUT A RECREATIONAL CRABBING LICENSE MAY USE A COLLAPSIBLE TRAP OR NET RING, NET RING, HANDLINE, OR DIP NET, AS DESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN REGULATIONS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.