

HOUSE BILL 1119

M2

3lr2257

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – Hunting – Fur-Bearing Mammals**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a
4 year-round open season for the hunting of fur-bearing mammals in Dorchester
5 County; removing certain limitations on the hunting of fur-bearing mammals on
6 Sundays in Dorchester County; authorizing a person to hunt fur-bearing mammals
7 on public land in Dorchester County designated for hunting by the Department of
8 Natural Resources on certain Sundays; and generally relating to the hunting of
9 fur-bearing mammals in Dorchester County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 10–406, 10–410(a)(1)(iv) and (15)(i)6.
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Natural Resources
17 Section 10–410(a)(1)(i)6.
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2022 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 10–406.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Except during the hunting and trapping season or as allowed under
2 [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (b) AND (C)** of this section, a person may not hunt or trap any
3 fur-bearing mammal or possess the meat or pelt of any fur-bearing mammal, whether
4 hunted or trapped within the State or any other state, territory, or country.

5 (b) (1) (i) A person may possess any green pelt of any fur-bearing mammal
6 until March 25 for purposes of curing the skins.

7 (ii) However, in Frederick, Garrett, Allegany, Carroll, Howard, and
8 Washington counties, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat between November 15
9 and February 15, of the year following, and a person may possess any green mink and
10 muskrat pelt until February 25 for purposes of curing the skin.

11 (iii) 1. In the remainder of the State except for the counties in
12 subparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat
13 between January 1 and March 15.

14 2. In Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's,
15 Somerset, and Worcester counties, a person may hunt or trap mink or muskrat between
16 December 15 and March 15 of the year following.

17 (iv) The Department may extend any muskrat season set by this
18 subsection for a period of 1 week, if the Department considers it necessary for any reason,
19 including weather conditions.

20 (2) A person may possess the meat of muskrat or otter no more than 10
21 days after the close of open season for these mammals in order to dispose of the meat for
22 food. However, a person may apply for a permit to store the meat during the closed season
23 if the meat was hunted lawfully.

24 (3) A muskrat damaging any embankment or impoundment may be
25 destroyed by the owner at any time.

26 (4) A person may hunt or trap and possess the pelt or meat of raccoon or
27 opossum during those periods and under the restrictions, including bag limits, the
28 Department may establish by regulation.

29 (5) In Charles [and Dorchester counties] **COUNTY**, a person may hunt or
30 trap a fox or possess the pelt of a fox at any time of year.

31 (6) A person may hunt or trap on the person's land a coyote, fox or skunk
32 that is damaging or destroying the personal or real property of the landowner.

33 (7) A person may:

34 (i) Trap a coyote during the trapping season established by the
35 Department; or

1 (ii) Hunt a coyote:

2 1. While the person is legally hunting for any other species
3 of game bird or mammal, by any method legal for use at the time in hunting that other
4 species; or

5 2. At any time of year, by predator calling.

6 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A YEAR-ROUND OPEN SEASON
7 FOR THE HUNTING OF FUR-BEARING MAMMALS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY.

8 10-410.

9 (a) (1) (i) The Department may allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of
10 the game bird and game mammal seasons in:

11 6. Subject to subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, Dorchester
12 County, from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:30 a.m.;

13 (iv) The time restrictions under subparagraph (i)6 of this paragraph
14 do not apply:

15 1. On each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first
16 Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January, inclusive; [and]

17 2. On each Sunday of the spring turkey hunting season; AND

18 3. ON EACH SUNDAY OF THE FUR-BEARING MAMMAL
19 SEASONS.

20 (15) (i) The Department may not allow a person to hunt on public land
21 designated for hunting by the Department on Sunday except in:

22 6. Dorchester County, for [turkey]:

23 A. TURKEY during the spring turkey hunting season; AND

24 B. FUR-BEARING MAMMALS DURING THE FUR-BEARING
25 MAMMAL SEASONS;

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2023.