

# SENATE BILL 870

M2, M1

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CF 5lr3406

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Boating – Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from operating a vessel within a certain distance  
4 of a stationary blind or blind site that is occupied and being used for hunting  
5 migratory waterfowl during open season; and generally relating to prohibited acts  
6 related to boating.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Natural Resources  
9 Section 4–512 and 8–701(a) and (s)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 8–724.2  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 4–512.

21 During the open season for migratory waterfowl, a person may not fish by any means  
22 within 500 yards of any stationary blind or blind site which is occupied and is being used  
23 for hunting migratory waterfowl.

24 8–701.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (s) (1) "Vessel" means every description of watercraft, including an ice boat  
3 but not including a seaplane, that is used or capable of being used as a means of  
4 transportation on water or ice.

5 (2) "Vessel" includes the motor, spars, sails, and accessories of a vessel.

6 **8-724.2.**

7 **DURING THE OPEN SEASON FOR MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, A PERSON MAY NOT**  
8 **OPERATE A VESSEL, INCLUDING A KAYAK OR A PADDLE BOAT, IN ANY MANNER**  
9 **WITHIN 500 YARDS OF ANY STATIONARY BLIND OR BLIND SITE THAT IS OCCUPIED**  
10 **AND BEING USED FOR HUNTING MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2025.