

# HOUSE BILL 97

P1

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1074  
CF SB 135

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By: **Delegate T. Morgan**

Requested: October 2, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Designations – State Shark – Megalodon**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the megalodon as the State shark; and generally relating  
4 to the State shark.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–310

8 to be Section 7–311

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–310

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, The megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived and one of the  
18 largest predators; and

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, Fossilized teeth are found in Calvert County along Calvert Cliffs and  
2 also found in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince George's, and St. Mary's  
3 counties; and

4 WHEREAS, The megalodon continues to be a source of popular and scientific  
5 fascination derived from their fossilized large, serrated teeth; and

6 WHEREAS, This macro predator provides evidence for the rich fossil history  
7 preserved in Maryland; and

8 WHEREAS, There are extant sharks in both the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's  
9 coastal waters, and the megalodon, although extinct, lived in this area for millions of years  
10 and is a reminder of the important role modern and prehistoric sharks have played in  
11 shaping past and present ecosystems; and

12 WHEREAS, As the Maryland State Paleontology Collection and Research Center,  
13 the Calvert Marine Museum houses over 1,700 fossilized megalodon teeth, including the  
14 only associated dentition (over 50 teeth from one individual) of the shark ever found within  
15 the State; now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That Section(s) 7-310 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-311.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
20 as follows:

21 **Article – General Provisions**

22 **7-310.**

23 **THE MEGALODON (OTODUS MEGALODON) IS THE STATE SHARK.**

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.