

HOUSE BILL 1412

M2

6lr1991

By: **Delegate Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Crabs – Requirements and Prohibited Acts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons who are licensed to catch crabs from selling
4 cooked hard or soft crabs or crab meat harvested by the license holder; prohibiting
5 seafood dealers and mobile seafood vendors from purchasing cooked hard or soft
6 crabs or crab meat from certain persons who are licensed to catch crabs; requiring a
7 mobile seafood vendor to obtain a seafood dealer license; requiring seafood dealers
8 and mobile seafood vendors to comply with applicable Maryland Department of
9 Health requirements; and generally relating to requirements and prohibited acts
10 applicable to crabs.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Natural Resources
13 Section 4–807
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 4–807.

20 (a) **(1)** Any person desiring to engage in the business of picking, canning, or
21 packing crabs, except a person picking and selling crab meat for local family trade, first
22 shall obtain a license. “Local family trade” means the selling of picked crab meat directly
23 to the consumer by the picker, with the meat being picked entirely from crabs harvested by
24 the picker or family of the picker. Nothing in this [section] **SUBSECTION** exempts persons

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 engaged in picking, canning, or packing crabs from the applicable Maryland Department
2 of Health requirements.

3 **[(b)] (2)** This [section] **SUBSECTION** does not require any person licensed to
4 catch crabs to obtain a license to sell the crabs caught or require a license for retail crab
5 sellers who purchase crabs from a person licensed under this [section] **SUBSECTION**.

6 **(B) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "MOBILE SEAFOOD VENDOR" MEANS A**
7 **PERSON WHO SELLS OR OFFERS FOR SALE ANY SEAFOOD:**

8 **(I) WHILE OUTDOORS ON FOOT;**

9 **(II) FROM ANY VEHICLE OR CONVEYANCE, WHETHER OR NOT**
10 **THE VEHICLE OR CONVEYANCE IS IN OPERATING CONDITION; OR**

11 **(III) FROM ANY TENT, TEMPORARY STAND, ROADSIDE STAND,**
12 **ROADSIDE MARKET, OR OTHER VENUE THAT IS NOT AN ESTABLISHED PLACE OF**
13 **BUSINESS.**

14 **(2) A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED TO CATCH CRABS AND DOES NOT**
15 **HOLD A SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE MAY NOT SELL COOKED HARD OR SOFT CRABS**
16 **OR CRAB MEAT HARVESTED BY THE LICENSE HOLDER.**

17 **(3) A MOBILE SEAFOOD VENDOR:**

18 **(I) SHALL OBTAIN A SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE;**

19 **(II) MAY NOT PURCHASE COOKED HARD OR SOFT CRABS OR**
20 **CRAB MEAT FROM A PERSON LICENSED TO CATCH CRABS WHO DOES NOT HOLD A**
21 **SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE; AND**

22 **(III) SHALL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE MARYLAND**
23 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.**

24 **(4) A SEAFOOD DEALER:**

25 **(I) MAY NOT PURCHASE COOKED HARD OR SOFT CRABS OR**
26 **CRAB MEAT FROM A PERSON LICENSED TO CATCH CRABS WHO DOES NOT HOLD A**
27 **SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE; AND**

28 **(II) SHALL COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE MARYLAND**
29 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
2 1, 2026.