

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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March 17, 2020

Senate Bill 242 - Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl Policy – Repeal

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 242, which would repeal obsolete provisions of Maryland law regarding the issuance of a license to feed wild waterfowl.

According to the Fiscal and Policy Note, the Department of Natural Resources reports that it has not issued a license to feed waterfowl in more than 20 years. From my own experience, in 30 years of service as a Maryland Natural Resources Police Officer, I cannot recall these provisions ever being enforced. This law has only served to confuse the public and those police officers who attempt to enforce these provisions. Senate Bill 242 would end this confusion. As a court recognized expert witness in waterfowl migration, habits, hunting methods, and enforcement techniques, I can say that repealing these provisions will have no negative effect on Maryland's waterfowl population.

It is important that our law is straightforward and understandable for both our citizens and those who are charged with enforcing the law. This bill passed the Senate 45-0. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 242. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties