

SB 275_DNR_SUP_EEE_2-15-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Wilson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Acting Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

February 15, 2023

Bill Number: **SB 275**

Short Title: **Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement**

Department's Position: **Support**

Explanation of Department's Position

The Department supports SB 275 because it may assist in field investigations concerning trapping activities.

Background Information

As part of the hunting and trapping licensing process, individuals must acquire a one-time, permanent identification number issued by the department. This number is known as a DNRid. Along with purchasing hunting and fishing licenses, the DNRid is also used to register harvested game, apply for permits, and for other DNR-related activities. SB 275 would require traps, snares, and similar devices to be marked with the DNRid under certain circumstances.

Bill Explanation

SB 275 requires traps, snares, and other similar devices to be marked or tagged with an identification number (DNRid) issued by the department to the person placing the device. The department can waive this requirement if the device is used only on private property that is owned or rented by the person placing the device.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)
emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB275.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 401
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

February 15, 2023

Senate Bill 275 – Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 275 – Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement. This bill would require a person who uses a snare, a trap, or another similar device to capture wildlife to ensure the person's Department of Natural Resources identification number is affixed to the device. This requirement can be fulfilled by the number either being stamped on the device or being on a metal tag affixed to the device.

Senate Bill 275 will give DNR the ability to trace a snare or trap back to its owner so that the owner can be contacted should it be necessary to inform them of an issue involving their trap. The DNR identification number that would be required to be associated with the device is not public information and can only be searched by DNR or Natural Resources Police staff, so they will be the only ones able to identify the owner. The bill also includes provisions for a device that does not include this number to report it to DNR or the NRP. It is important to note that there is an exception in the bill so that this does not apply to an individual setting a trap either on their own property or property that they are renting.

Trappers serve a distinct role in conserving our resources and helping us control nuisance animals. Nothing could be a better example than the elimination of the invasive species nutria from the Eastern Shore that was done by trapping them. These tags will assist our trappers in retaining the public's trust of the vital role that they have in wildlife management.

This requirement is already in place in multiple other states. The right to hunt, fish, and trap is an important part of Maryland's culture and tradition, and with this right comes the duty to do so in a responsible and ethical manner. In addition to the testimony that you will receive in support of this legislation, I have also spoken to representatives of the Maryland Fur Trappers Association, who have informed me that they do not oppose this legislation.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 275. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey

Hunting- Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices-

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 15, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Hunting- Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices – Identification Requirement – SB 275 - Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Hunting- Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices – Identification Requirement – SB 275.

Every year, millions of animals in the United States suffer a cruel and painful death after being caught in traps. Many of these unfortunate victims are not being trapped for food or to protect property but are instead being killed to support the global fur trade. Moreover, unintended victims are often household pets who suffer the terrible fate of being imprisoned in one of these trapping devices only to bleed or starve to death.

The trapping devices rely on the principle of restraining an animal. Steel-jaw leghold traps, also called foothold traps, are powered by strong springs that slam shut on an animal and exert excruciating force. Animals caught in leghold traps suffer from torn flesh, cut tendons and ligaments, and broken bones, and can further injure themselves, break teeth, and dislocate joints in their struggle to escape. Body-crushing, or Conibear, traps are designed to kill an animal when two rotating jaws close on each side of the animal's neck or chest, crushing the body. While these traps may be intended to kill instantly, they do so inconsistently and can subject the animal to unimaginable suffering. Snares, or cable restraints, use a wire or cable loop that tightens around an animal and causes extreme suffering, asphyxia, and even death. Snares are designed to kill through strangulation, but the animal can suffer for hours or even days if the snare is incorrectly deployed or irregularly checked.

Many states have passed ballot measures banning or placing restrictions on trapping including Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Washington. In addition to the suffering of the animals and safety issues for people and pets, trapping has not been proven to be an effective method of population control as often animals reproduce in larger numbers to compensate. Moreover, there is no compelling evidence that traps are an effective or efficient way of controlling the spread of rabies.

This bill is an important step forward in protecting unsuspecting animals, pets, and the public from harm caused by these dangerous trapping devices.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Bailey for his sponsorship of SB 275 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Testimony.pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Navian Scarlett

Position: FAV

Good afternoon. Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins and members of the committee. My name is Navian Scarlett.

I live in Frederick, MD in district 3. I am a college student.

I am here in support of HB 515, the Active Shooter Drill Notification bill, and I ask for a favorable report. I believe in this bill, because it will help students cope with the anxiety and trauma shooting drills can induce. While the safety of students and staff is paramount, I do not believe that inducing anxiety or even triggering gun violence survivors is an ideal approach. In my experience students would start crying from fear and anxiety, even have panic attacks as a result. At the very least this would help inform students and parents in advance, and would prevent triggering simulation sounds like gunshots during these drills. We do not need to compromise the mental health and well being of students and staff to protect them. This would be the most ideal and reasonable way to keep everyone safe and prepared for what can no longer be considered the unexpected, but a matter of time. We must put gun violence survivors and those traumatized first when taking this approach.

Thank you for your time.

SB275_FAV_HSUS.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Boyles Griffin

Position: FAV



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Bill: SB 275
Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Position: Support
Date: February 9, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Humane Society of the United States, on behalf of our Maryland members and supporters, supports Senate Bill 275. Proper labeling of traps and prompt reporting of trapping-related incidents is a step in the right direction towards protecting Maryland's animals from unnecessary suffering and death.

Because traps are indiscriminate, family pets, protected, threatened and endangered species, and other animals can be their unintended victims. In many states trappers are not required to report their non-target captures, but some research indicates that as many as 18 non-target animals may be captured for each target animal captured, depending on the trap type and methods used.¹ Here are some examples of cases in which Maryland non-target animals have suffered in traps:

- An escaped zebra was found dead in an illegal snare trap in Prince George's County.²
- A 7-year-old Emmitsburg beagle named Jackson was found captured in a muskrat trap after having been missing for 14 days. Officials estimated that he had suffered in the trap for at least 36 hours. Jackson's front left leg had to be amputated because of the injuries inflicted.
- A cat in Gaithersburg returned home dragging a leg-hold trap clamped to his front left paw. The trap was removed and the cat's front leg was amputated.
- A dog named Santini was killed after being lured to a bucket, baited with meat, that contained a body-crushing trap in Perryville. Santini's owner said the trap, "...was about 12 inches by 12 inches and it clamped down around his neck." The trap was set in an unauthorized location and was not tagged with the owner's information.
- An Ellicott City woman found her pet cat on county park property after he had been caught in an unmarked leghold trap for about 10 hours. The cat suffered from soft tissue damage and was in a cast for at least a month.³

Traps that capture non-target animals may not be properly labeled or identified, and citizens may be unsure of how to report such incidents to authorities. We therefore appreciate that SB 275 will require that traps must be stamped with the owner's identification number, or that a metal tag is affixed to them with that information, and authorizes those who find an unlabeled snare, trap or similar device to report it to the Maryland DNR or the Natural Resources Police Force.

We are grateful to our sponsors and the Maryland Fur Trappers Association for working collaboratively to identify a policy reform that will protect wildlife by focusing on enforcement and accountability of Maryland's trapping laws. We urge a favorable report on SB 275.

¹ Iossa, G., Soulsbury, C. D., & Harris, S. (2007). Mammal trapping: a review of animal welfare standards of killing and restraining traps. *Animal Welfare*, 16(3), 335-352.

² Kuzminski, K. "Escaped Zebra in Prince George's County found dead in illegal snare trap." Fox Baltimore, October 14, 2021. <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/escaped-zebra-in-prince-georges-county-found-dead-in-illegal-snare-trap>

³ Incidents in Emmitsburg (2014), Gaithersburg (2011), Perryville (2007), and Ellicott City (1997) from the Born Free USA Trapping Incidents Database at <https://www.bornfreeusa.org/trapping-incidents-search/>