

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

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**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