

HB0406_DNR_SUP_E&T_2-17-23.pdf

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Position: FAV



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

February 17, 2023

Bill Number: **HB 406**

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

Department's Position: **Support**

Explanation of Department's Position

The Department supports HB 406 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. HB 406 would require traps, snares, and similar devices to be marked with the DNRid under certain circumstances.

Bill Explanation

HB 406 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)
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HB406_FAV_HSUS.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Position: FAV



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Bill: HB 406
Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee
Position: Support
Date: February 15, 2023

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Humane Society of the United States, on behalf of our Maryland members and supporters, supports House Bill 406. 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 HB 406.

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/>

Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 17, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Hunting – Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices HB 406 – Support

Chair Barve, Vice - Chair Stein, members of the Environment and Transportation 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, Inc. 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 the State of Maryland, I respectfully ask that the House Environment & Transportation Committee vote favorably for Hunting- Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices – Identification Requirement – HB 406

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.

Thanks to Delegate Love for sponsoring this legislation. I urge the committee for a favorable report on HB 406.

HB 406 - Snares - Love Wttm.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Love

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 406 – Hunting – Snares, Traps, and
Other similar Devices – Identification Requirement**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, Members of ENT:

HB 406 strives to increase enforcement and accountability for those that set traps outside the law. This committee should be proud of the work it has done to create a strong framework for hunting and trapping laws in Maryland. Unfortunately, that good work is too swiftly and easily undone by individuals who fail to follow those laws. Currently, individuals who set traps and violate our trapping regulations cannot be identified or held accountable. HB 406 seeks to change that by requiring that traps (except those set by a landowner on his or her own private property) have the identification number of the trapper, so if a violation should occur DNR can take appropriate action.

Under current law, someone must have a furbearer permit to hunt, chase, or trap a furbearer (coyote, raccoon, and other animals), except within limited exemptions. Because the DNR already maintains a system for licensing trappers, those identification numbers can be used to identify traps and associate them with the individual. In the limited instances where an individual is not required to get a permit, the bill specifies that they can get a free identification tag from the Department of Natural Resources for their trap instead. The use of this identification number keeps the individual's information private while enabling follow through by the DNR when necessary.

This tagging requirement will improve enforcement and public trust in our wildlife management laws. Should an individual violate our laws – for example, placing traps inappropriately or failing to check the trap within the required timeframe, the DNR would be able to identify that trapper and take action. Should traps be set illegally, without identification at all, the DNR would have the ability to identify that unlawful activity has taken place and work to catch and identify the individuals responsible. And in the extreme situation where a family pet or unintended wildlife gets caught in a trap, the DNR could contact the trapper without delay.

I am proud to have worked with my crossfile, Senator Bailey, with feedback from the MD DNR and the Maryland Fur Trappers, to advance this bill. This legislation strives to protect the

interests of all stakeholders, creating greater accountability for bad actors instead of allowing public outcry to grow against trappers in general.

When trapping laws are not followed it leads to cruelty and suffering. All stakeholders can agree that our laws should be followed, and that trapping should be done humanely as possible. I am grateful for bipartisan support for this common sense reform, and I ask the Committee for a favorable vote.

HB406_UNF_HUNT

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: UNF

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032

February 17, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB0406-Hunting snares, traps and other devices

Dear Delegates,

We oppose HB 406 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

We feel that this is just another example of government overreach in controlling citizens who may occasionally have a need or desire to trap a fur-bearing mammal.

It is an encroachment on general freedoms and the Fiscal and Policy notes make no mention as to why this bill should be enacted. What is the benefit to the State? We see no benefit to an individual, only more hassle by the government resulting in a way to track and control their actions.

It is unnecessary. Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers