

# MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ANIMAL LAW SECTION

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section  
Kimberly L. Fullerton, Esq.  
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**RE:** House Bill 188 – Natural Resources – Wildlife Advisory Commission –  
Membership  
**DATE:** February 6, 2023  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section is in support of HB 188, which would update membership requirements of the Commission responsible for advising the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) on the management of Maryland’s wildlife resources. The Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor.

### **I. Expertise in Environmental Science is Necessary to Safeguard Maryland’s Natural Resources**

HB188 requires the Governor to appoint to the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission (“Commission”) one member who is an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology.

Environmental Science is a highly technical field. The Commission should include an academic researcher to ensure that advice to DNR considers the scientific principles related to the management of natural resources.

### **II. The Commission Should Update and Diversify Current Membership Requirements**

HB 188 would update an existing membership requirement by requiring additional representation from the hunting or fishing communities, the wildlife preservation community, and the passive wildlife recreation community.

This bill is necessary to ensure that the perspectives and concerns of Maryland’s diverse communities are represented in management of the State’s natural resources.

The Maryland State Bar Association urges a favorable report on HB 188.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kimberly Fullerton,

*Immediate Past Chair*

*Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section*

cc: Maryland State Bar Association