

SENATE BILL 268

M2

EMERGENCY BILL
ENROLLED BILL

(7lr0915)

— Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Environment and Transportation —

Introduced by **Senators Young, Benson, Guzzone, and Pinsky**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cownose Ray ~~Fishing Tournaments—Prohibition~~ Fishery Management Plan**
3 **and Moratorium on Tournaments Contests**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting a person from organizing, sponsoring, promoting,~~
5 ~~conducting, or participating in a cownose ray fishing tournament in State waters;~~
6 ~~requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations; defining~~
7 ~~a certain term; and generally relating to cownose ray fishing tournaments~~ requiring
8 the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a certain fishery management plan
9 for the cownose ray species on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to
10 prepare a certain fishery management plan for the cownose ray species on or before a
11 certain date, subject to available funding; prohibiting a person from ~~organizing,~~
12 sponsoring, ~~promoting,~~ conducting, or participating in a certain cownose ray fishing
13 tournament contest in State waters until a certain date; *establishing certain penalties*
14 for certain violations; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating
15 to the cownose ray fishery.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–215(b)(23) and (24)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Natural Resources
Section ~~4–748~~ 4–215(b)(25)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

~~4–748.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COWNOSE RAY FISHING TOURNAMENT” MEANS ANY
TOURNAMENT, CONTEST, COMPETITION, OR DERBY WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF
CATCHING OR KILLING COWNOSE RAYS FOR:~~

~~(1) PRIZES OR OTHER INDUCEMENTS; OR~~

~~(2) ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES.~~

~~(B) A PERSON MAY NOT ORGANIZE, SPONSOR, PROMOTE, CONDUCT, OR
PARTICIPATE IN A COWNOSE RAY FISHING TOURNAMENT IN STATE WATERS.~~

~~(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
SECTION.~~

4–215.

(b) The Department shall prepare fishery management plans for the following
species:

(23) Hard shell clams; [and]

(24) Catfish; AND

(25) COWNOSE RAY.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 31,
2 ~~2017, 2018, subject to funding made available to the Department of Natural Resources to~~
3 ~~implement Section 1 of this Act, the Department of Natural Resources shall prepare the~~
4 ~~cownose ray fishery management plan required by § 4-215(b)(25) of the Natural Resources~~
5 ~~Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.~~

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

7 (a) In this section, “cownose ray fishing ~~tournament~~ contest” means any
8 ~~competition, tournament contest, competition, or derby with the objective of catching or~~
9 ~~killing cownose rays for:~~

10 (1) prizes or other inducements; or

11 (2) entertainment purposes.

12 (b) Until July 1, ~~2018~~ 2019, a person may not ~~organize, sponsor, promote, conduct,~~
13 ~~or participate in a cownose ray fishing tournament contest in State waters.~~

14 (c) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor,
15 ~~and on conviction is subject to the penalties provided in § 4-1201(a) and (b) of the Natural~~
16 ~~Resources Article.~~

17 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June~~
18 ~~1, 2017.~~

19 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
20 ~~measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has~~
21 ~~been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to~~
22 ~~each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is~~
23 ~~enacted.~~

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.