

HOUSE BILL 955

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By: **Delegates Hornberger, Anderton, Arian, Beitzel, Carey, Clark, Cox, Griffith, Jacobs, McComas, McKay, Otto, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Snare Traps – Prohibition Against Use, Sale, Possession, Setting, Placing, or**
3 **Maintaining – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a provision of law making the possession of a snare trap
5 prima facie evidence that the trap was used to violate a certain provision of law;
6 repealing a requirement that a law enforcement officer of the State confiscate and
7 destroy a snare trap under certain circumstances; repealing a prohibition against
8 possessing a snare trap in certain counties; repealing a prohibition against using,
9 selling, possessing, setting, placing, or maintaining a snare trap in Cecil County;
10 making stylistic changes; repealing an obsolete provision of law; and generally
11 relating to snare traps.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 10–410(k) and (p)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

20 10–410.

21 (k) (1) A person may not set any trap, except box traps for rabbits, net, or snare
22 of any description to take any game birds or mammals, except fur-bearing mammals.

23 (2) (I) A trap[,] OR net[, or snare] found in the possession of any person

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



shall be prima facie evidence that the device was used to violate this subsection.

(II) A law enforcement officer of the State shall confiscate and destroy [the device] **A TRAP OR NET FOUND UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

(3) A person may not place traps of any description on another person's property without the other person's written permission.

(p) (1) (i) "Snare trap" means a device made of wire, synthetic cord, or other material that:

1. Is in the form of a noose with a slipknot, stop, swivel, or eyelet holes; and
2. Is designed or set with the intent of capturing an animal by the neck.

(ii) "Snare trap" includes:

1. A pole snare;
2. A hanging snare; and
3. A neck snare.

(2) [(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in] **IN** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, [Cecil,] Harford, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, a person may not use, sell, [possess,] set, place, or maintain a snare trap.

[(ii) In Anne Arundel County, from July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1992, a person may sell or possess a snare trap.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.