

# SENATE BILL 257

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By: **Senators Bailey and Elfreth**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing Gear – Crab Pots – Ghost Panel Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt regulations  
4 requiring that certain crab pots be equipped with ghost panels and establishing  
5 certain specifications for ghost panels used in crab pots; defining a certain term; and  
6 generally relating to requirements for crab pots.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Natural Resources  
9 Section 4–221  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 4–221.

16 (a) The authority provided by this section is in addition to any other authority of  
17 the Secretary provided by law.

18 (b) (1) Subject to [paragraph (2)] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this  
19 subsection, the Secretary, after consultation with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission  
20 and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, may adopt regulations to define and govern  
21 the use of:

22 (i) Recreational fishing gear; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) The following types of commercial fishing gear:

1. Fish pots;
2. Bank traps;
3. Fyke nets;
4. Hoop nets;
5. Finfish trotlines; and
6. Bowfishing gear.

(2) The Department shall consider relevant biological, ecological, and socioeconomic factors before adopting regulations under this subsection.

**(3) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, “GHOST PANEL” MEANS A PANEL OR ANY OTHER MECHANISM THAT IS DESIGNED TO ALLOW CRABS TO ESCAPE FROM A CRAB POT AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME IF THE CRAB POT HAS BEEN ABANDONED OR LOST.**

**(II) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO:**

- 1. REQUIRE ALL CRAB POTS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH GHOST PANELS; AND**
- 2. ESTABLISH SPECIFICATIONS FOR GHOST PANELS USED IN CRAB POTS.**

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