

Chapter 296

(Senate Bill 318)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights

FOR the purpose of stating certain findings of the General Assembly related to fishing and hunting; establishing that it is the intent of the General Assembly that residents of the State have a right to fish and to hunt subject to certain regulations and restrictions; and generally relating to the right to fish and hunt.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources
Section 10–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–103.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) FISHING IS A VALUED PART OF THE STATE’S CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HERITAGE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE RECREATIONAL BENEFITS TO RESIDENTS OF THE STATE; AND

(2) FISHING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE STATE’S ECONOMY BY CONTRIBUTING TO TAX REVENUES AND EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORTS THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE’S FISHERIES, NATURAL AREAS, AND WATER RESOURCES.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTS OF THE STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO FISH SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS UNDER LAWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS.

10-102.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) HUNTING IS A VALUED PART OF THE STATE'S CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HERITAGE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE RECREATIONAL BENEFITS TO RESIDENTS OF THE STATE; AND

(2) HUNTING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE STATE'S ECONOMY BY CONTRIBUTING TO TAX REVENUES AND EMPLOYMENT AND, THROUGH THE RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, SUPPORTS THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE, NATURAL AREAS, AND RELATED RESOURCES.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTS OF THE STATE HAVE A RIGHT TO HUNT SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS UNDER LAWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.