

CHAPTER 56

(House Bill 226)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Natural Resources – Regulation of Bait

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations regarding bait; repealing a certain bait dealer’s license and certain other restrictions and limitations relating to live bait dealers; repealing certain limitations on the amounts and types of bait that may be sold by live bait dealers; and generally relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to regulate bait in the State.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–219

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–11A–19

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–219.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS DEFINING WHICH SPECIES MAY BE HARVESTED, IMPORTED, TRANSPORTED, SOLD, OR USED AS BAIT IN THE STATE.

[4–11A–19.

(a) Any person desiring to sell live bait in Montgomery, Frederick, or Washington county shall apply to a person designated by the Department for a live bait dealer’s license. The application shall be in the form the Department prescribes, and contain an affidavit signed by the applicant that he is a resident of the county. Upon payment by the applicant of an annual fee of \$10.50, the designated person may

issue a license supplied by the Department to the designated person. As compensation for each bait dealer's license issued, the designated person shall retain 50 cents. Any money collected for license fees during a month shall be forwarded to the Department on the first day of each succeeding month. The Department shall account for the money to the State Treasurer.

(b) A live bait dealer may sell only minnows, chubs measuring less than 6 inches in length, and killifishes and mad toms procured from the waters of the Potomac River. He may not possess more than 750 bait fish of every type at one time. The bait boxes of the live bait dealer shall be open for a Natural Resources police officer to inspect at any reasonable time.

(c) A live bait dealer may not sell more than 35 bait fish to any person in any day. A licensee may not transport bait fish out of the county where purchased or sell it outside that county. A purchaser from the licensee may not resell bait fish but may transport it outside of the county where purchased.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.