

# HOUSE BILL 644

M2  
HB 693/21 – ENT

2lr1867  
CF SB 900

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By: **Cecil County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County – Fishing – Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of adding Cecil County to a list of counties to which certain riparian laws  
4 do not apply; prohibiting a person from placing nets ~~or establishing a certain fishery~~  
5 for a certain purpose in certain waters of Cecil County; repealing certain fishing  
6 restrictions that apply in Cecil County; and generally relating to fishing in Cecil  
7 County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 4–712 and 4–717  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 4–712.

17 (a) The owner, tenant, or lessee of any property bordering on tidal waters of the  
18 tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, except the waters of the Great Choptank River, lying in  
19 the State, by virtue of his ownership or occupancy, may make first choice of the set or  
20 position to place nets or establish a haul seine fishery to catch fish for commercial use in

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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.



1 front of the property for which he possesses riparian rights. The section does not permit  
2 any riparian owner or anyone acquiring the right of a riparian owner to fish with nets or  
3 seine in any manner prohibited by this subtitle.

4 (b) In any year, any other person may set any net or haul seine in front of the  
5 property of a riparian property owner if the owner, tenant, or lessee of the riparian rights  
6 does not exercise the privilege of locating the position where he desires to set his nets or  
7 haul seine within 20 days after receiving notice from the other person who desires to locate  
8 his nets or fishery in front of the riparian owner's property.

9 (c) The notice required by this section shall be mailed to the owner, tenant, or  
10 lessee of the shore property. If the name and address are unknown, then notice shall be  
11 posted for 20 days on a board fastened to a stake driven in the water directly in front of the  
12 property and within 300 feet of the shore.

13 (d) This section does not grant by reason of the notice any right to any fisherman  
14 to fish without the permission of the shore owner in water within 1500 feet of any shore  
15 used as a resort so as to interfere with bathing or boating.

16 (e) (1) The notice provisions of this section do not apply in the waters of  
17 Baltimore, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Talbot counties  
18 where the permission of the shore owner always shall be necessary.

19 (2) The provisions of this section do not apply to Anne Arundel, Calvert,  
20 **CECIL**, Queen Anne's, Kent, and Somerset counties.

21 4-717.

22 [(a)] A person may not [set a pound net or stake net] **PLACE POUND NETS OR**  
23 ~~**ESTABLISH A HAUL SEINE FISHERY TO CATCH FISH FOR COMMERCIAL USE**~~ in the  
24 waters of the Susquehanna River in Cecil County.

25 [(b)] Unless the written consent of the owner is first obtained, a person may not set  
26 any pound net opposite the shore of any owner of land bordering on the waters of the Elk,  
27 Bohemia or Sassafras rivers and their tributaries, and on the water of the North East River  
28 from Turkey Point to the River's Head, or any part of it within the limits of Cecil County.  
29 A person, unless he is the owner of the fishing shore, may not set a pound net so that it  
30 obstructs the hauling of any seine on an established fishing shore on these waters.

31 (c) A person may not catch fish by means of hook and line in the tidal waters of  
32 the following tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay in Cecil County, Mill Creek, Furnace Bay,  
33 North East River, Elk River, or Bohemia River two days prior to and extending until the  
34 closing day of the regular ducking season as promulgated by the Department of Interior of  
35 the United States. This subsection does not prohibit ice fishing at any time nor catching  
36 fish by means of hook and line from the shore line, docks, or wharves, or fishing by any  
37 means on Sundays during the regular ducking season.

1 (d) A person may not set any net within 200 yards of the beach on the Turkey  
2 Point section of Elk Neck State Park. The area that is restricted by this subsection shall be  
3 set off with buoys by the Department.]

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
5 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.