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BILL NO.: **HB 579**

TITLE: Snare Traps - Prohibition Against Sale or Possession -
Alterations

SPONSOR: Delegate Hornberger

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

DATE: March 31, 2021

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 579 – Snare Traps - Prohibition Against Sale or Possession - Alterations. This legislation repeals the prohibition against possessing a snare trap in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.

Snare traps are a wired based mechanism to capture roaming animals by the leg or neck. When an animal is caught by one, they are subject to inhumane suffering that often leads to a painful demise. These traps generally are not manually operated, leaving protected species or domesticated pets vulnerable. In jurisdictions where this trapping method is permitted, domesticated pets have accidentally wandered into hunting areas and have been severely injured or killed.

Residents and visitors deserve to enjoy the trails and natural areas of Baltimore County without fearing they could be putting their pet's life in danger. Snare traps do not exclude any particular animal, and are designed to trap, injure, or kill whatever wanders in its path. This is why they are currently banned. This proposed repeal of the prohibition on snare traps would take away citizens' peace of mind and could subject the County's wildlife to mistreatment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 579. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.