



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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January 31, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 45 - First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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This Departmental bill creates authority for representatives of an estate to liquidate inherited taxidermy mounts that they otherwise could not legally dispose of under existing law.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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The Department of Natural Resources is often contacted by relatives or representatives of decedent's estates who are looking to sell taxidermy mounts associated with the estate. Currently, these mounts cannot be sold, bartered or exchanged. Individuals are typically instructed to find a non-profit organization that will take the mounts as a donation, but few places exist that can accommodate that option. Many of these taxidermy specimens are valuable and the estate is left with no options except to discard them as trash. Neighboring states, including Pennsylvania and West Virginia, permit the sale of certain taxidermy mounts.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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HB 45 affords relatives or legal representatives for estates in Maryland, the option to sell legally-acquired, mounted specimens of a game bird (excluding migratory game birds) or game mammal, if the original owner is deceased and the specimen is part of the personal property of an owner whose estate is being liquidated.