

# HOUSE BILL 911

M2

1lr2894

---

By: **Delegate Lisanti**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Waterfowl Hunting – Susquehanna Flats**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a person may hunt wild waterfowl in the waters of  
4 the Susquehanna Flats while standing in water on the natural bottom only in areas  
5 designated by the Department of Natural Resources; prohibiting a person from  
6 hunting wild waterfowl in the Susquehanna Flats from a boat that is drifting, being  
7 sculled, or anchored in areas designated for hunting wild waterfowl while standing  
8 in water on the natural bottom; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to  
9 hunting wild waterfowl in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 10–604 through 10–606  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 10–604.

19 (a) **(1)** A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the  
20 natural bottom only [in the] IN:

21 **(I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
22 waters of the Susquehanna Flats[, the];

23 **(II) THE** nontidal waters of the Potomac River[, the];

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(III) THE** waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin  
2 River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of  
3 Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties[, and in other]; **AND**

4                   **(IV) OTHER** waters of the State in areas and on days the Department  
5 prescribes by regulation.

6                   **(2) A PERSON MAY HUNT WILD WATERFOWL IN THE WATERS OF THE**  
7 **SUSQUEHANNA FLATS WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM ONLY**  
8 **IN AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

9           (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
10 bottom at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

11           (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
12 bottom shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or  
13 another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

14           (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
15 bottom shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water  
16 except in the waters of the Potomac River, in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, in the  
17 waters of Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties, in the waters of Tangier Sound,  
18 Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and  
19 Kedges Straits in the waters of Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties, or while  
20 hunting at a licensed stationary blind or blind site.

21           (2) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
22 bottom shall be at least 400 yards from shore, including shore emerging at mean low water,  
23 in the following areas:

24                   (i) The waters of the Susquehanna Flats;

25                   (ii) The tidal waters of the Potomac River that the Department by  
26 regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a) of this section;

27                   (iii) The waters of Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties that  
28 the Department by regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a) of this section;  
29 and

30                   (iv) The waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin  
31 River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of  
32 Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties that the Department by regulation prescribes  
33 for hunting under subsection (a) of this section.

1 (e) A person may not hunt wild waterfowl while standing in State waters on the  
2 natural bottom when the natural bottom is privately owned, unless the hunter has the  
3 written permission of the landowner.

4 (f) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not hunt  
5 wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural bottom unless accompanied by a  
6 Maryland resident.

7 10-605.

8 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being sculled,  
9 only in:

10 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River, Conococheague Creek, and  
11 the Monocacy River;

12 (2) (I) The [Susquehanna Flats,] Elk River[,] and that portion of the  
13 Sassafra River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds; AND

14 (II) **EXCEPT FOR AREAS DESIGNATED FOR HUNTING WILD**  
15 **WATERFOWL WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM UNDER §**  
16 **10-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS;**

17 (3) Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight, Assawoman Bay, and  
18 their respective tributaries in Worcester County;

19 (4) The waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin River,  
20 Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of Dorchester,  
21 Somerset, and Wicomico counties; or

22 (5) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

23 (b) While hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being sculled, a  
24 person shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or  
25 another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

26 (c) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being  
27 sculled shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water  
28 except in the waters of the Potomac River, in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, in the  
29 waters of Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties, in the waters of Tangier Sound,  
30 Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and  
31 Kedges Straits in the waters of Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties, in  
32 Conococheague Creek, and in the Monocacy River.

1 (2) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being  
2 sculled shall be at least 400 yards from shore, including shore emerging at mean low water,  
3 in the following areas:

4 (i) The waters of the Susquehanna Flats;

5 (ii) The tidal waters of the Potomac River that the Department by  
6 regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section;

7 (iii) The waters of Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties that  
8 the Department by regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section;  
9 and

10 (iv) The waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin  
11 River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of  
12 Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties that the Department by regulation prescribes  
13 for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section.

14 (d) A nonresident may not hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or  
15 being sculled unless accompanied by a Maryland resident.

16 10-606.

17 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored only in:

18 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River;

19 (2) (I) The waters of the [Susquehanna Flats,] Elk River[,] and that  
20 portion of the Sassafras River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45  
21 seconds; AND

22 (II) **EXCEPT FOR AREAS DESIGNATED FOR HUNTING WILD**  
23 **WATERFOWL WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM UNDER §**  
24 **10-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS;**

25 (3) The waters of Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight,  
26 Assawoman Bay, and their respective tributaries in Worcester County;

27 (4) The waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin River,  
28 Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of Dorchester,  
29 Somerset, and Wicomico counties; or

30 (5) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

31 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored at a licensed  
32 offshore stationary blind or blind site.

1 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall remain  
2 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or another person hunting wild  
3 waterfowl offshore.

4 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall be  
5 at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water except in the  
6 waters of the Potomac River, in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, in the waters of  
7 Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties, in the waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay,  
8 Monie Bay, Manokin River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits  
9 in the waters of Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties, or unless anchored at a  
10 licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

11 (2) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall be  
12 at least 400 yards from shore, including shore emerging at mean low water, in the following  
13 areas:

14 (i) The waters of the Susquehanna Flats;

15 (ii) The tidal waters of the Potomac River that the Department by  
16 regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section;

17 (iii) The waters of Harford, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties that  
18 the Department by regulation prescribes for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section;  
19 and

20 (iv) The waters of Tangier Sound, Fishing Bay, Monie Bay, Manokin  
21 River, Big Annemessex River, Pocomoke Sound, and Kedges Straits in the waters of  
22 Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties that the Department by regulation prescribes  
23 for hunting under subsection (a)(5) of this section.

24 (e) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not hunt  
25 wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored unless accompanied by a Maryland resident.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2021.