

SENATE BILL 554

M2

7lr3302
CF 7lr3153

By: **Senators Hershey, Eckardt, and Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Gill Nets – Mesh Size**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain maximum mesh size and altering a certain
4 maximum stretched mesh size for gill nets used in the Chesapeake Bay and its
5 tributaries; and generally relating to maximum mesh sizes for gill nets in the
6 Chesapeake Bay.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 4–710(c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 4–710.

16 (c) (1) A person may not fish with any net whose size of stretched mesh,
17 allowing a reasonable tolerance for shrinkage, is less than the following: pound net, 1 1/2
18 inches; haul seine, 1 1/2 inches; gill net, 2 1/2 inches; fyke or hoop net, 1 1/2 inches.

19 (2) Any hedging or lead attached to a fish trap, fyke net, or pound net shall
20 be constructed of materials which have meshes having a twine size of #12 or larger.

21 (3) In the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, a person may not set or fish
22 any gill net [whose size of stretched mesh is more than 6 inches] **THAT HAS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(I) A MESH SIZE EXCEEDING 7 INCHES; OR

(II) A STRETCHED MESH SIZE EXCEEDING 7.5 INCHES.

(4) This subsection does not apply to catching eels with a net.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 1, 2017.