

## CHAPTER 693.

(House Bill 526)

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 99 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Water Fowl—Birds and Game", sub-title "Otter, Muskrat, Raccoon and Opossum", said new section to be known as Section 61A, and to follow immediately after Section 61 of said Article, providing for a closed season upon the woodchuck, commonly called the ground hog in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 99 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Water Fowl—Birds and Game", sub-title "Otter, Muskrat, Raccoon and Opossum", said new section to be known as Section 61A, to follow immediately after Section 61 of said Article, and to read as follows:

61A. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any woodchuck, commonly called ground hog, in Garrett and Allegany Counties, or have the meat or pelts in possession if trapped, caught or killed, between the thirtieth day of September and the first day of July following in each and every year, both dates, exclusive, whether same are trapped, caught or killed within the State of Maryland, or any other State, territory or country. However, nothing herein contained shall prohibit the possession of the skins of such animals for business purposes, when cured and dried, and any person may have in his possession green skins until the fifteenth day of November, following the close of each season, in order that all skins caught late in the season may be cured for market. During the open season it shall be unlawful for any one person to kill, trap or catch in any manner more than four woodchucks in any one day or more than eight in any one week or to kill or catch any woodchuck by digging him out of a den except as hereinafter provided.

Nothing contained in this section shall prevent woodchucks from being dug out of their dens or killed, in any manner, at any time, by landowners or occupants of farms, or by members of their family, or hired help. Said animals may also be dug out of dens in cultivated fields and killed in any manner during the regular open woodchuck season by any other person, if such person shall first have obtained specific permission from the owner or occupant of said farm, and shall, immediately after the removal thereof, replace the earth and level off the area dug out.