

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 21, 1973.

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#### CHAPTER 487

(Senate Bill 1143)

AN ACT to add new Section 1160B to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Cruelty to Animals," to follow immediately after Section 60A11 125A to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Birds, Game and Fish," subheading "Department of Game and Inland Fish," to follow immediately after 125 thereof, to prohibit the possession with intent to sell, the sale, or importation into this State for commercial purposes of the dead bodies, parts or products of any seal, excluding certain acts from coverage, and providing penalties for the violation of this section.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 1160B be and it is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Cruelty to Animals," to follow immediately after Section 60A11 125A be and it is hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Birds, Game and Fish," subheading "Department of Game and Inland Fish," to follow immediately after Section 125 thereof, to read as follows:

1160B11 125A.

(A) IT IS UNLAWFUL TO IMPORT INTO THIS STATE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, TO POSSESS WITH INTENT TO SELL, OR TO SELL WITHIN THE STATE, THE DEAD BODY, OR ANY PART OR PRODUCT THEREOF, OF ANY SEAL.

(B) HOWEVER, THIS ACT DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE SALE OR THE POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO SELL OF ANY PART OR PRODUCT OF ANY SEAL WHEN THE SELLER CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PART OR PRODUCT WAS IMPORTED INTO THIS STATE BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT; NOR DOES IT PROHIBIT THE SALE OF A PART OR PRODUCT OF A SEAL BY AN INDIVIDUAL NOT NORMALLY ENGAGING IN THIS TYPE OF COMMERCIAL SALE, SO LONG AS THE PART OR PRODUCT WAS ORIGINALLY POSSESSED AND USED BY THE SELLER FOR HIS OWN PRIVATE PURPOSES. THIS ACT ALSO DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF A SEAL, OR ANY PART OR PRODUCT THEREOF SO LONG AS THIS IS DONE FOR LEGITIMATE ZOOLOGICAL, EDUCATIONAL, OR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

(C) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND UPON CONVICTION SHALL BE FINED FOR EACH VIOLATION NOT MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) OR IMPRISONED FOR SIX MONTHS, OR BOTH FINED AND IMPRISONED AT THE