

BY: Delegate Eckardt

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 853
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Prohibition” and substitute “Study”; strike beginning with “prohibiting” in line 3 down through “dredging” in line 8 and substitute “requiring the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a certain study of the use of dredging to catch oysters and clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays area; requiring the Department to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of oyster and clam dredging in the Atlantic Coastal Bays”; and strike in their entirety lines 9 through 24, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, strike beginning with “That” in line 26 down through “4-1021.2.” in line 27 and substitute “That:”; and after line 27, insert:

“(a) The Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a study on the use of dredging to catch oysters and clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays that:

(1) evaluates the environmental impact of the use of dredging in the Atlantic Coastal Bays, including:

(i) the effect on any SAV protection zones, as designated in accordance with § 4-1006.1 of the Natural Resources Article, and aquatic grasses that are in the Atlantic Coastal Bays;

(ii) the impact on water quality; and

(iii) other potential harmful effects on the ecosystem within the Atlantic Coastal Bays;

(Over)

(2) evaluates the effect on the economic sector of prohibiting dredging in the Atlantic Coastal Bays by determining:

(i) the number of people who use dredging to catch oysters or clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays;

(ii) whether the people who use dredging to catch oysters or clams are from Maryland or neighboring states;

(iii) the total monthly catch from dredging in the Atlantic Coastal Bays and what percentage of the total monthly catch is from commercial clamming and oystering; and

(iv) potential harmful effects on commercial oystering and clamming and local businesses along the Atlantic Coastal Bays;

(3) identifies best practices for oystering and clamming in the Atlantic Coastal Bays; and

(4) makes recommendations for specific statutory changes that may be necessary to implement the best practices identified.

(b) On or before June 1, 2007, the Department shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.

On pages 2 through 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 1 on page 2 through line 14 on page 5, inclusive.