

# HOUSE BILL 1305

M2

2lr0019

---

By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Natural Resources – Authority to Establish Free Fishing**  
3 **Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to adopt  
5 regulations to create free fishing areas in tidal and nontidal waters of the State  
6 where a person may catch finfish for recreational purposes without certain  
7 licenses or authorizations; creating a certain exemption to the requirement that  
8 a person obtain an angler's license before fishing in the nontidal waters of the  
9 State; and generally relating to the establishment of free fishing areas in the  
10 waters of the State.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Natural Resources  
13 Section 4–214, 4–604(c), and 4–745(d)(3)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 4–214.

20 **(A)** By regulation, the Secretary may establish up to 3 free fishing days each  
21 calendar year when a person may catch finfish in the tidal and nontidal waters of the  
22 State for recreational purposes without an angler's license or Chesapeake Bay and  
23 coastal sport fishing license.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





1                   2.     On private real property bordering on tidal water as  
2 an owner or tenant of the property, or a spouse or an immediate family member who  
3 resides on the property with the owner or tenant; and

4                   3.     On a boat licensed under paragraph (2) of this  
5 subsection.

6                   (ii)    There is no fee for registration under this paragraph.

7                   (iii)  An individual required to register under this paragraph  
8 shall provide all the information requested by the Department on forms issued by the  
9 Department.

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 July 1, 2012.