

Chapter 22

(Senate Bill 93)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Recreational Incentives Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Recreational Incentives Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources; stating the purpose of the pilot program; requiring the Department to develop a plan to implement the pilot program, subject to certain requirements and restrictions; requiring the Department to administer the pilot program in accordance with the developed plan; requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the operation and results of the pilot program on or before a certain date; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of and standards for the Recreational Incentives Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 1-901 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 9. Recreational Incentives Pilot Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

SUBTITLE 9. RECREATIONAL INCENTIVES PILOT PROGRAM.

1-901.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE RECREATIONAL INCENTIVES PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A RECREATIONAL INCENTIVES PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER INCENTIVE DISCOUNTS OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT PURCHASED A RECREATIONAL FISHING OR HUNTING LICENSE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 3

YEARS INCREASE THE PURCHASE OF RECREATIONAL LICENSES ISSUED UNDER §§ 4-604, 4-745, AND 10-301 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

(I) IDENTIFY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE INCENTIVE DISCOUNTS;

**(II) ESTABLISH AMOUNTS FOR THE INCENTIVE DISCOUNTS;
AND**

(III) INCLUDE A MARKETING STRATEGY FOR ATTRACTING ELIGIBLE RECREATIONAL LICENSE CUSTOMERS.

(3) UNDER THE PLAN, AN INCENTIVE DISCOUNT MAY NOT:

(I) EXCEED 50% OF THE UNDERLYING LICENSE FEE; OR

(II) BE OFFERED OR PROVIDED FOR A SPECIFIC RECREATIONAL LICENSE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS HELD THAT LICENSE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 3 YEARS.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OPERATION AND RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.