

HOUSE BILL 545

M1

11r2209

By: **Delegate Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Certificates – Digital**
3 **or Electronic Format**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to make available and,
5 on request, issue certain licenses, permits, registrations, and certificates in a digital
6 or electronic format; establishing that an individual may satisfy certain
7 requirements to possess or display a license, permit, registration, or certificate by
8 possessing or displaying the document in a certain digital or electronic format;
9 requiring the Department to design certain digital or electronic documents in a
10 certain manner; and generally relating to licenses, permits, registrations, and
11 certificates issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 1–403(a), (b), (c), and (g)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Natural Resources
19 Section 1–403.1
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Natural Resources**

25 1–403.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the Department may
2 develop and implement an electronic system for the sale and issuance of licenses, permits,
3 and registrations and the recording and releasing of security interests.

4 (b) The electronic system may include provisions for:

5 (1) Recording titling and registration data;

6 (2) Recording and releasing liens without the issuance of a security interest
7 filing; and

8 (3) Recording information relating to an application for a license, permit,
9 or registration.

10 (c) The Department shall develop the electronic system consistent with the
11 statewide information technology master plan developed under Title 3A, Subtitle 3 of the
12 State Finance and Procurement Article.

13 (g) The Department may adopt regulations to:

14 (1) Implement the electronic system authorized under this section; and

15 (2) Determine the appropriate fee levels that may be charged by a vendor
16 and by the Department for the electronic transmission service.

17 **1-403.1.**

18 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE AND, ON REQUEST, ISSUE**
19 **ANY LICENSE, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS**
20 **ARTICLE IN A DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC FORMAT.**

21 **(B) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY SATISFY ANY REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS**
22 **ARTICLE TO POSSESS OR DISPLAY A LICENSE, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR**
23 **CERTIFICATE BY POSSESSING OR DISPLAYING THE DOCUMENT IN A DIGITAL OR**
24 **ELECTRONIC FORMAT AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

25 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC**
26 **DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS THE**
27 **DOCUMENT HOLDER TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF THE DEVICE ON WHICH**
28 **THE DOCUMENT IS ACCESSED DURING VERIFICATION.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2021.