

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 1049 (Senator Mautz)  
Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Environment - Tidal Wetlands - Construction of Piers**

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This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in making a decision on an application for a tidal wetlands license or permit to construct a pier, from considering any vessel owned by the applicant as a condition for issuing the license or permit.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MDE can implement the bill using existing budgeted resources. State revenues are not anticipated to be materially affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Wetlands in the State are protected, and the Wetlands and Waterways Program within MDE administers a statewide program for the management, conservation, and protection of Maryland's tidal wetlands and nontidal wetlands and waterways. Pursuant to statute and MDE regulations, and subject to certain exceptions, a person may not dredge, fill, or construct or reconstruct structures in:

- State wetlands, without a license issued by the Board of Public Works (or MDE, as MDE is delegated authority to authorize certain activities in State wetlands); or
- private wetlands, without a permit issued by MDE.

Application fees for wetlands and waterways permits and licenses are set in statute and range from \$250 (for certain shoreline stabilization projects) to \$7,500 multiplied by the impact area in acres (for major projects with an impact of one acre or more). The application fee for minor projects is \$750.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 931 (Delegate Hutchinson) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment; Board of Public Works; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2024  
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