

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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March 5, 2020

Senate Bill 1025 – Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 1025 – Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties. This bill would establish a Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties to study and make recommendations on fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC). Under this bill, the Governor shall request that the Governor of Virginia appoint members to the task force. If Virginia participates, the task force will also make recommendations regarding fishing license penalty reciprocity between Virginia and the PRFC. The task force must also make recommendations on the logistics associated with providing fishing license penalty reciprocity. This task force must report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2021.

As was explained in my testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 4, under the current rules established by the PRFC, a person who has had their fishing license suspended or revoked in Maryland does not lose their right to fish in the Potomac River. Since the Potomac River is governed by the PRFC under the terms of an interstate compact, the Maryland General Assembly does not have the authority to pass a law to stop this from occurring. This task force will be able to recommend to the PRFC how to use their powers to ensure that individuals who have had their license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland suspended or revoked to also lose their right to fish in the Potomac River.

I am also offering an amendment that will add to the task force's directive a requirement on actions that can be taken under the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact to prohibit a person from fishing in the Potomac River if they are banned from doing so in Maryland. I am confident that this task force will help the PRFC in come up with and implement sound policies so we can protect our natural resources that are so vulnerable to overfishing and poaching.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 1025 with the amendment I have offered. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties