

CBF_Allison-Colden_FAV_SB1025

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Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 1025

Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties

DATE: MARCH 5, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports Senate Bill 1025 and recommends a favorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. This bill would convene a Task Force on fishing license penalties comprising representatives from Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to hold Maryland fisheries violators accountable within their jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the interstate wildlife violator compact.

The interstate wildlife violator compact was created to allow for reciprocal acknowledgement of license revocations and suspensions in each of the participating 43 states. Under current law, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission is not required to enforce license revocations and suspensions to those who have broken the law in Maryland. Senate Bill 1025 will provide recommendations on the feasibility and implementation of such reciprocity. If implemented, this reciprocity would create a strong united front between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, in order to ensure the protection of the vital natural resources of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has entered 743 individuals under the compact in the last four years. Without cooperation from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, these individuals can simply move their operations to the Potomac River and continue the exact same activity for which their privileges have been revoked in Maryland. Granting violators the privilege to own a fishing license within the jurisdiction of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission after blatantly disobeying rules and regulations set forth in the state of Maryland undermines our law enforcement and jeopardizes our fisheries.

As the second largest tributary in the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River is an integral component to the overall health and success of the Bay. It is imperative that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission engage in collaborative stewardship of the estuary and follow suit with the neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia. Uniform enforcement across the entirety of the Chesapeake Bay will help to set a precedent that those who willingly violate the law will not be tolerated.

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation strongly supports Senate Bill 1025 and recommends a favorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. For more information, please contact Dr. Allison Colden at acolden@cbf.org or 410.268.8816.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

SenatorBailey_FWA_SB1025

Uploaded by: Senator Bailey, Senator Bailey

Position: FAV

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

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 402
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

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

DNR_JamesMckitrick_SWA_SB1025

Uploaded by: mckitrick, james

Position: FWA



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support with Amendments – Senate Bill 1025 - Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Nature Resources offers its support for Senate Bill 1025 with the attached technical amendments and respectfully requests a favorable committee report.

The department is currently working with the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the State of Virginia to take action to prohibit a person from participating in a fishery under the Commission's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland has been suspended or revoked.

The passage of this legislation triggers provisions in the Potomac River Compact for a comprehensive review of the issue and any recommended compact language to be passed next year by both General Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia.

For these reasons, the department respectfully asks for a favorable committee report Senate Bill 1025 with the attached amendments.

[over]

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

BY:

(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 1025

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, after line 21, insert:

“(3) The Governor shall request that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission appoint at least one member to the Task Force.”

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with “Virginia” in line 1 down through “Resources” in line 2 and substitute “Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission”; and in line 2, strike “Secretary’s” and substitute “Commissioner’s”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, in line 21, after “ENACTED,” insert “That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Task Force established by this Act constitute a commission to study and make recommendations concerning revision and amendments to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, as described in Article IV, Section 5. of the Compact.”

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED.”