



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

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 55 - Natural Resources – Certificate of Title – Transfer-on-Death Beneficiary Designation

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources offers the following information on House Bill 55. This bill will allow a sole vessel owner the ability to designate a beneficiary to take ownership of the vessel on the death of the owner. The ability to designate a beneficiary is now available to car owners, but it is not currently allowed for boat owners.

Due to restrictions in the current electronic licensing system, we request that the following amendments be made. The amendments would allow for the Department to allow the ability to designate a beneficiary to take ownership of the vessel on the death of the owner at the time a new licensing system has been established that can handle the required changes.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests the Committee support the requested amendments to House Bill 55.

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

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AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 55
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 23, after “changes;” insert “making this Act subject to a certain contingency;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, after line 18, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the upgrade of the electronic equipment associated with the issuance of certificates of title for vessels to allow for a certificate of title to contain a beneficiary designation as described in this Act. The Department of Natural Resources shall notify the Department of Legislative Services within 5 days of the completion of the necessary upgrade to the electronic equipment. If notice of the completion of the upgrade is not received by the Department of Legislative Services on or before December 31, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void.”

On page 4, in line 19, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in the same line, strike “That” and substitute “That, subject to Section 2 of this Act,”