

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 17, 2020

Senate Bill 1025 – Task Force on Fishing License Penalties

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 1025 – Task Force on Fishing License Penalties. This bill would establish a Task Force on 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.

Across this country, the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact is currently composed of 47 member states. The IWVC also includes a reciprocal recognition of license privilege suspension by member states. Wildlife law violators are held accountable due to the fact that their illegal activities in one state can affect their privileges in all participating states. The PRFC is not part of this compact.

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 Commission 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. Therefore, this resolution requests that the Commission 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 confident that this task force will help the PRFC to come up with and implement sound policies so we can protect our natural resources that are so vulnerable to overfishing and poaching.

This bill passed the Senate 45-0. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 1025. 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