

**REGINA T. BOYCE**  
Legislative District 43A  
Baltimore City

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Environment and  
Transportation Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Housing and Real Property

*Chair*  
Natural Resources, Agriculture  
and Open Space



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3476 · 301-858-3476  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3476  
Fax 410-841-3295 · 301-858-3295  
Regina.Boyce@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 26, 2024

Good afternoon Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce testifying on **HB613 Natural Resources - Recreational Catching of Oysters or Clams - Requirements**.

**HB613 is a departmental bill that** alters certain authorizations to recreationally catch clams in the State and establishes a recreational oyster license.

Currently, Maryland does not have a recreational oyster license, which poses challenges in tracking recreational harvests. The absence of such a license inhibits the effective management of our natural resources. Through HB613, the Department of Natural Resources aims to address this gap by introducing a \$10 annual recreational oyster license.

This proposed license will serve several crucial purposes:

- It will facilitate the tracking and management of recreational harvests by the Department of Natural Resources.
- The license fee will directly contribute to oyster replenishment efforts, aligning with existing surcharges for commercial harvesters.
- Under the proposed license, Maryland residents will be permitted to harvest up to 100 oysters per day.

It is important to note that similar licenses already exist in other states. For instance, New Jersey offers a recreational shellfish license for \$10 per year, a model that we believe is fair and effective in regulating recreational harvesting activities.

HB613 seeks to establish a \$10 annual recreational oystering license for Maryland residents aged 16 and above. This license will enable individuals to harvest up to 100 oysters per day, while the generated revenue from license fees will support oyster replenishment efforts, mirroring the approach taken with commercial harvesters.

HB613 has been amended to include a clause that the Department of Natural Resources shall use a portion of the application fee- the percentage of which will be determined by the Department- to replenish public fishery oyster bars by planting shell and juvenile oysters.

In conclusion, HB613 represents a proactive step towards sustainable resource management and the preservation of our state's natural heritage.

I thank the Committee for their time and consideration of HB613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Regina T. Boyce