



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 16, 2024

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 562 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License - Nonresidents - License Fee

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports the raising of recreational fishing fees. It has been at least fourteen years since any recreational fishing fees were raised. While the agency supports raising certain fees to keep up with inflation and costs associated with managing the resources used by recreational fishing licensees, it does want to make sure the fees are raised in a way that is purposeful and we believe that this legislation does just that.

The boat decal is a popular product. In 2023, the agency sold 47,543 (10,194 nonresident) boat decal licenses. This product is popular with individuals who own boats because the decal covers the recreational fishing license costs for anyone on the vessel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, this fee is \$50 for both residents and nonresidents. It allows an individual to purchase the license which includes a decal that is placed on the vessel. Individuals fishing on the vessel are required to register for free when fishing but are not charged for additional licenses.

The last increase to recreational fishing licenses was in HB 1345 (2010). Many fees were not raised at that time, including the \$50 boat decal. The \$50 fee went into place after the passage of SB 1012 (2007), which increased it from \$40 to \$50.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill would increase the fee for the Chesapeake and Coastal Sportfishing Boat Decal from \$50 to \$100 for a nonresident.

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