

JACK BAILEY
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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



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Senate Bill 507 – Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License - Nonresidents - License Fee

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 507. This legislation would create a nonresident license fee for a Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License.

This license is one of the very few where residents and nonresidents pay the same fee. Currently, all applicants for a Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License pay a license fee of \$50. This legislation would increase this fee for nonresidents to \$100. This special license authorizes any person on a boat that has the license to fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to the tidal boundaries, or in the State's waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries. The owner of the boat is also issued a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license.

It is important to note that this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Marylanders. This Committee is aware of the importance of financing the conservation and management of our State's natural resources. This is particularly true when we consider that the Federal government gives Maryland \$3 for every \$1 the State raises in license revenue. According to data from the Department of Natural Resources, in 2023, 9,760 of the 42,830 special licenses sold were purchased by nonresidents. I believe that, by making this license consistent with other licenses in having different fees for residents and nonresidents, we can support our natural resources without imposing any additional burdens on Marylanders.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 507. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey