



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

March 26, 2025

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 56 – Third Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Procurement - State Department of Education - Control Authority - Local Food Purchasing**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT**

**EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

The Department supports any efforts to provide effective control mechanisms for invasive species. By allowing easier procurement of invasive species provided by a Certified Chesapeake Invasive Species Provider, the bill would allow for an additional mechanism for harvesters to sell their invasive species catch.

Below are the commercial harvest amounts for the past four years (2024 data is not yet complete). The data reflects the increasing importance of commercial harvest as a control mechanism for aquatic invasive species in Maryland.

Commercial fishery landings as reported to Maryland Department of Natural Resources as of 1/17/2025 on Monthly Finfish Harvest Reports. Data from 2024 should be considered preliminary.

YEAR	CATFISH - UNKNOWN	CATFISH - BLUE	CATFISH - BULLHEAD	CATFISH - CHANNEL	CATFISH - FLATHEAD	CATFISH - WHITE	CATFISH SNAKEHEAD
2020		554,665	770	1,400,757	22,355	1,950	3,445
2021		639,391	1,066	863,075	11,799	700	5,483
2022	220	866,997	756	1,175,003	15,040		5,949
2023	70	1,130,300	175	1,352,799	27,366	2,890	6,592
2024**		1,254,926	219	866,985	9,465	1,886	9,294

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

None.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Acting Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
 emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ (443) 223-1176 (cell)

**BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill as amended streamlines the process for the Department of Education to purchase certain food including certified Chesapeake invasive species provided by a Certified Chesapeake Invasive Species Provider.