

**SB0103\_DNR\_SUP\_ENT\_3-26-25.pdf**

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Position: FAV



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

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March 26, 2025

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 103 - Third Reader**

SHORT TITLE: **Boating Accidents – Reporting Requirement – Property Damage**

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

#### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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SB 103 enhances public safety and resource protection through additional reporting criteria. By mandating that individuals report damage to navigational aids as a result of a watercraft accident, the bill promotes timely reporting of such damage, which increases the awareness of damaged navigational aids, further prompting timely repair/replacement of such aids to potentially save lives and allow boaters to safely traverse the waters of the state.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Currently, NR 8-724 states that a watercraft accident resulting in personal injury or property damage (outside of other reporting requirements for accidents involving death, serious physical injury or damage greater than \$2,000) shall be reported within 10 days. This bill seeks to specifically add damage to navigational aid markers, lights or identifiers to the law as a reporting requirement to the department within 10 days.

#### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill seeks to add damage to navigational side markers, lights or identifiers to the reporting requirements under NR 8-724 as it relates to watercraft property damage accidents on the waters of the state.

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**SB 103 Senator Simonaire\_FAV\_ENT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
Legislative District 31  
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 103 - Boating Accidents - Reporting Requirement - Property Damage**

I am Senator Simonaire presenting SB 103.

I worked with the Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders on this consensus legislation with no known opposition.

To the bill, DNR stated:

*“The bill clarifies that a vessel operator is required to report property damage accidents including damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers to ensure that the Department has this information, as the Department is required to report it to the United States Coast Guard.”*

We have seen when this information is not provided, delays in repairs can occur, the Coast Guard requirements are not being met and it can cause confusion after the fact.

I ask for your favorable consideration.