

HOUSE BILL 256

M3, E4
HB 478/23 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

4r0755
CF SB 166

By: **Delegate D. Jones**

Requested: September 28, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS)
4 Workgroup to study issues and factors regarding the feasibility of establishing a
5 Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public of certain
6 waterway emergencies; and generally relating to the Waterway Incident Notification
7 System (WINS) Workgroup.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup.

11 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

12 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
13 the Senate;

14 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House;

16 (3) the Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Chair of the Maryland 9–1–1 Board, or the Chair's designee;

18 (5) the Superintendent of the Natural Resources Police, or the
19 Superintendent's designee;

20 (6) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee; and

2 (8) the following representatives:

3 (i) one representative from the Dorchester County Emergency
4 Management Division, appointed by the Director of the Dorchester County Department of
5 Emergency Services;

6 (ii) one representative from the Anne Arundel County Office of
7 Emergency Management, appointed by the Director of the Anne Arundel County Office of
8 Emergency Management; and

9 (iii) one representative from the St. Mary's County Emergency
10 Management Division, appointed by the Director of the St. Mary's County Department of
11 Emergency Services.

12 (c) The Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, may
13 appoint additional members to the Workgroup.

14 (d) The Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, shall
15 designate the chair of the Workgroup.

16 (e) The Maryland Department of Emergency Management shall provide staff for
17 the Workgroup.

18 (f) A member of the Workgroup:

19 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

20 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
21 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

22 (g) The Workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding:

23 (1) the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System
24 to notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen,
25 of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm,
26 emergency marine events, or marine hazards; and

27 (2) potential partnerships among the State, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S.
28 Navy, and nearby states to improve notifications to members of the public, including
29 recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of waterway emergencies involving a
30 person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine
31 hazards.

32 (h) (1) On or before December 31, 2024, the Workgroup shall submit an
33 interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with

1 § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

2 (2) On or before September 30, 2025, the Workgroup shall submit a final
3 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
4 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
6 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
7 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
8 abrogated and of no further force and effect.