

# HOUSE BILL 438

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CF SB 152

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By: **Delegates Hornberger and D. Jones**  
Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Fee Exemptions – Residents Eligible for**  
3 **Assistance Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting residents who are eligible for certain assistance programs  
5 from the annual fee for angler’s licenses, trout stamps, and Chesapeake Bay and  
6 coastal sport fishing licenses; and generally relating to fees for fishing licenses and  
7 stamps.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 4–604(b) and (f), 4–614(c), and 4–745(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Natural Resources  
15 Section 4–604(e)(1) and 4–614(a)(1) and (2)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Natural Resources**

21 4–604.

22 (b) **(1)** Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler’s license to fish  
23 in the nontidal waters of the State.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(2)** An angler’s license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of  
2 the State only during the open season.

3           (e)   (1) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

4                   (i)   Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;  
5 and

6                   (ii)   May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the  
7 Department on the application.

8           (f)   (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the following annual license  
9 fees shall apply:

10                   (i)   Resident ..... \$20.50

11                   (ii)   Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term license  
12 valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issuance ..... \$7.50

13                   (iii)   Resident and nonresident blind persons ..... No fee

14                   (iv)   **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE**  
15 **FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
16 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**  
17 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

18                   (v)   Complimentary license ..... No fee

19           (2) For a nonresident:

20                   (i)   The fee for an annual angler’s license is the greater of:

21                           1.   \$30.50; or

22                           2.   A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
23 nonresident’s home state for a similar license; and

24                   (ii)   The fee for a short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from  
25 the date of issuance is the greater of:

26                           1.   \$7.50; or

27                           2.   A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
28 nonresident’s home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or  
29 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

1 (iii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 3 consecutive days from  
2 the date of issuance is the greater of:

3 1. \$5; or

4 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
5 nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or  
6 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

7 (3) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted  
8 angler's licenses and trout stamps to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple  
9 Heart Award.

10 (4) (i) All fees collected by the Department under this section may only  
11 be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

12 (ii) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts  
13 collected and the expenditures under this section.

14 4-614.

15 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas  
16 where a trout stamp is required.

17 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may  
18 not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless  
19 the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license.

20 (c) The following annual trout stamp fees shall apply:

21 (1) Resident..... \$5

22 (2) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR**  
23 **NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
24 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**  
25 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

26 (3) Nonresident..... \$10

27 4-745.

28 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217  
29 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up  
30 to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays  
31 and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing  
32 license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the  
33 license or registration.

1 (2) The license may be obtained from the Department or from any  
2 authorized agent of the Department.

3 (3) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, the following annual license  
4 fees shall apply:

5 (i) Resident.....\$15

6 (ii) Short-term resident license valid for 7 consecutive days from  
7 date of issue.....\$6

8 (iii) For a short-term nonresident license valid for 7 consecutive days  
9 from date of issue.....\$12

10 (iv) Nonresident.....\$22.50

11 (v) Resident and nonresident blind persons.....No fee

12 (vi) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE**  
13 **FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
14 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**  
15 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

16 (vii) Complimentary license under subsection (e) of this  
17 section.....No fee

18 (4) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted  
19 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses to Maryland residents who are recipients  
20 of the Purple Heart Award.

21 (5) Except as provided in subsection (d)(1) of this section, every  
22 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license and registration shall be valid for 1 year  
23 following the date of issuance.

24 (6) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

25 (i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;  
26 and

27 (ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the  
28 Department on the application.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2024.