

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 101 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)

Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Natural Resources - Vessels - Accident Reports**

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This departmental bill amends Maryland's vessel accident reporting requirement law in order to be consistent with federal law. Specifically, the bill repeals the requirement that an owner or operator of a vessel in an accident involving two or more vessels, regardless of the amount of property damage, file a full description of the accident with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not significantly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** DNR has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** If an accident involves any vessel subject to the State Boat Act while on the waters of the State and results in the death, disappearance, or injury of any person or in property damage of \$2,000 or more, or there is complete loss of the vessel, or a

collision occurs involving two or more vessels, regardless of the amount of damage, the operator or owner must file a full description of the accident with DNR.

**Background:** Chapter 12 of 2003 modified the conditions relating to boating accidents that trigger State reporting requirements in order to be consistent with federal law. Among other things, Chapter 12 requires that any collision involving two or more vessels, regardless of the amount of property damage, must be reported. However, DNR advises that the language was added in error, as it had been deleted from federal law in 2001. This bill is intended to correct the oversight and make the law consistent with federal law, as originally intended.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2004  
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