

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 642

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Natural Resources - Boating - Disclosure of Personal Information

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to disclose personal information of registered vessel owners to a financial institution requesting the information for use in the normal course of business activity, but only: (1) to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to that financial institution; and (2) if the information is not accurate, to obtain correct information for the purpose of preventing fraud, pursuing legal remedies, or recovering on a debt or security interest. The bill makes a conforming change to the State Government Article to prohibit a custodian from knowingly disclosing a public record of DNR containing personal information except under the conditions stated above.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a custodian must allow a person or governmental unit to inspect any public record at any reasonable time. Unless otherwise provided, and except under specified conditions, a custodian must deny inspection of specified public records,

such as adoption records, welfare records, and records of the Motor Vehicle Administration containing personal information

Except under specified conditions, upon written request by a registered vessel owner, DNR may not furnish the name, address, or other identifying information about the owner to anyone. DNR is authorized to provide such information to: (1) another governmental agency; (2) a person requesting the information in connection with the compilation of statistical data, if not requested for the purpose of preparing a mailing list; or (3) a person whose request is limited to and necessary for the protection of the ownership, safe operation, proper maintenance, or repair of the vessel.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1163 (Delegate McMillan, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2004
ncs/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2004

Analysis by: Lesley Cook

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510