

SENATE BILL 414

M1

71r1275

By: **Senators Stoltzfus, Colburn, Dyson, Middleton, Pipkin, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Working Waterfront Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Working Waterfront Commission; providing for
4 the composition of the Commission; providing for the appointment of the
5 chair of the Commission; requiring the Commission to study and make
6 recommendations regarding protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial
7 seafood industry's access to public trust waters; requiring the Commission to
8 submit a certain report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before a
9 certain date; providing for the staffing of the Commission; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the
11 Working Waterfront Commission.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, Working waterfronts play a vital role in the economy, heritage,
14 culture, and history of Maryland; and

15 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the private and public
16 investment Maryland has made in the commercial seafood industry and communities;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Maryland's commercial watermen and seafood packers provide a
19 valuable service as providers of quality seafood to the public, bearers of an invaluable
20 cultural and traditional way of life, stewards of the environment, and contributors to
21 the future growth of heritage and ecotourism; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes specific measures must be taken
2 to ensure the viability of Maryland's seafood industry communities, the supporting
3 economies, and associated livelihoods and traditions; and

4 WHEREAS, The State must protect and preserve the commercial fishing
5 industry's access to public trust waters; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that development pressures
7 increasingly eliminate commercial working waterfront and jeopardize the viability of
8 the commercial seafood industry; and

9 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake and Atlantic coastal waters provide a resource of
10 great importance to Maryland and its citizens and make a significant contribution to
11 the economic well-being of the State; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Working Waterfront Commission.

15 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (5) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

24 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or
25 the Executive Director's designee;

26 (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the
27 Executive Director's designee;

1 (8) the President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, or the
2 President's designee;

3 (9) the Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural and
4 Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's
5 designee;

6 (10) the Executive Director of the Coastal Bays Association, or the
7 Executive Director's designee;

8 (11) the President of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries
9 Association, or the President's designee;

10 (12) the Director of the Sea Grant Program, or the Director's designee;

11 (13) the President of the Maryland Waterman's Association and a
12 member of the Maryland Waterman's Association appointed by the President of the
13 Association;

14 (14) the Executive Director of the Maryland Saltwater
15 Sportfishermen's Association, or the Executive Director's designee; and

16 (15) three watermen appointed by the Governor representing:

17 (i) the coastal bay;

18 (ii) the lower bay; and

19 (iii) the upper bay.

20 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

21 (d) The Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Legislative
22 Services shall provide staff for the Commission.

23 (e) A member of the Commission:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

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

1 (f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding
2 protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public
3 trust waters.

4 (g) On or before December 15, 2007, the Commission shall report its findings
5 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
9 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.