

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 104

(Senator Stoltzfus)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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**Working Waterfront Commission - Reporting and Sunset Extension**

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This bill extends the termination date for the Working Waterfront Commission from May 31, 2008 to December 31, 2008. It also extends the commission's reporting deadline from December 15, 2007 to December 1, 2008.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Legislative Services are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 30 of 2007 established the Working Waterfront Commission to study and make recommendations regarding protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters. Staffing is provided by DNR and DLS. Findings and recommendations were due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 2007. The commission is set to terminate on May 31, 2008.

**Background:** In a December 14, 2007 letter to the Governor and the Presiding Officers, Mr. Stephen McHenry, the commission chair, noted that the appointment process took longer than expected and that the designation of the chair had only recently occurred. As a result, the commission's first meeting was held on December 11, 2007, which left insufficient time to complete the required report by December 15. The letter requested an extension for the report and indicated that, if approved, legislation would be introduced to extend the commission's statutory authority and the reporting deadline. Finally, the letter indicated that an interim report is anticipated to be submitted by January 31, 2008.

At its first meeting, the commission reviewed its charge, discussed the commission's scope and tasks, and held presentations on Maryland's commercial fisheries and what other states are doing with respect to commercial fishing access to public waters. At its second meeting, held on January 16, 2008, the commission was presented with information regarding boating access and discussed ideas for legislation. The commission's third meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2008.

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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 21, 2008  
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Analysis by: Lesley G. Cook

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