

Chapter 376

(Senate Bill 666)

AN ACT concerning

**Recreational Fishing Licenses – Duration and Expiration Date**

FOR the purpose of altering the expiration date for and, under certain circumstances, the duration of certain recreational fishing licenses; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to ~~determine the duration of and effective dates~~ establish by regulation a term for a certain recreational fishing license; requiring the Department to proportionally prorate the annual license fees for certain recreational fishing licenses; repealing a certain obsolete provision of law; and generally relating to the expiration date for and duration of recreational fishing licenses.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Natural Resources  
Section 4–210.1(a), 4–216(a), 4–604(b), and 4–745(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Natural Resources  
Section 4–210.1(e), 4–216(c), 4–604(h)(1), and 4–745(a)(3) and (d)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

4–210.1.

(a) A person providing fishing guide services for compensation to a person fishing in nontidal freshwater or areas of tidal water designated in subsection (f) of this section for game and freshwater fish shall obtain a freshwater fishing guide license.

(e) [Beginning January 1, 2000 the] **THE** Department may issue a freshwater fishing guide license which shall be valid for [not more than 1 year and shall expire on December 31 of each year following the date of issuance] ~~A DURATION AND ON DATES AS DETERMINED~~ **TERM ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN REGULATION.**

4–216.

(a) The Department shall establish a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license, to be issued to residents of Maryland beginning in the calendar year in which they attain the age of 65.

(c) A resident consolidated senior sport fishing license shall be valid for [not more than] 1 year [and shall expire on December 31] **FOLLOWING THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.**

4-604.

(b) Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in the nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of the State only during the open season.

(h) (1) Every angler's license shall [expire on December 31 of each] **BE VALID FOR 1** year following the date of issuance.

4-745.

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

(3) [Every] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION, EVERY** Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license and registration shall be valid for [not more than] 1 year [and shall expire on December 31] **FOLLOWING THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.**

(d) (1) The Department may provide by regulation for issuance of a special charter boat license that **SHALL BE EFFECTIVE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1 YEAR AND SHALL EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31 AND THAT** would be valid for all individuals on a charter boat operated by a licensed fishing guide in tidal waters of the State. The fee shall be:

(i) For 6 fishermen or less \$240.

(ii) For 7 or more fishermen \$290.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall proportionally prorate the annual license fee for any fishing license for which the duration of the license is shortened under this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**