

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 4 (Senator Guzzone)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

Natural Resources – Fishing – Wild–Caught Blue Catfish

This joint resolution urges the U.S. Congress to amend specified federal law and return federal oversight responsibilities related to the processing and inspection of wild invasive catfish caught in the Chesapeake Bay to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The joint resolution states that the rules promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requiring the inspection of fish of the order Siluriformes are unnecessary and burdensome and have led to unintended consequences, which include deflating the market for blue catfish caught in Maryland waters and financially harming harvesters and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

Analysis

Current Law: The specified federal law referenced in the joint resolution is a definition of “amenable species,” which are subject to regulation under USDA inspection requirements. The definition includes all fish of the order Siluriformes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SJ 3 of 2020 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HJ 3, received a hearing in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HJ 1 (Delegate Stein) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2021
rh/lgc Third Reader - February 5, 2021

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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