

HOUSE BILL 601

M2

2lr2375
CF SB 455

By: **Delegates Jacobs, Adams, Arentz, Boteler, Buckel, Cox, Ghrist, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, McComas, McKay, Novotny, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and Recreational Fishing**
3 **– Pilot Program and Task Force**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License
5 Pilot Program to collect certain recreational fishing information and improve
6 compliance with a certain registration requirement; establishing the Task Force on
7 Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing to study and develop multiyear
8 plans for improving the collection and quality of certain recreational fishing data;
9 and generally relating to the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License
10 Pilot Program and the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and
11 Licensing.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 4–745(d)(2) and (3)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Natural Resources
19 Section 4–745.1
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Natural Resources**

4 4–745.

5 (d) (2) (i) The Department may provide by regulation for issuance of an
6 annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, which when permanently
7 affixed to a boat registered in any state shall authorize any person on the boat to fish for
8 finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries or in State waters
9 of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries, except that such
10 a license may not be used on a boat that has been hired to take such persons fishing.

11 (ii) The annual fee for this special license shall be \$50.

12 (iii) If a boat owner purchases the special license under this
13 paragraph, the boat owner may fish anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
14 or the State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their
15 tributaries, whether the boat owner is fishing in the owner's boat, in another person's boat,
16 on land, or elsewhere. The Department shall issue a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and
17 coastal sport fishing license to the boat owner who purchases a special license under this
18 paragraph. If a boat to which the special license is affixed has more than one owner, then
19 only the individual applicant who signs the application for the special license shall be
20 entitled to a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license under this
21 paragraph.

22 (3) (i) An individual shall register with the Department before fishing
23 in any of the following areas that do not require a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing
24 license:

25 1. A free fishing area established under § 4–214(b)(1) of this
26 title with hook and line;

27 2. On private real property bordering on tidal water as an
28 owner or tenant of the property, or a spouse or an immediate family member who resides
29 on the property with the owner or tenant; and

30 3. On a boat licensed under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

31 (ii) There is no fee for registration under this paragraph.

32 (iii) An individual required to register under this paragraph shall
33 provide all the information requested by the Department.

34 **4–745.1.**

1 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY
2 AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (B) THERE IS A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE
4 PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

6 (1) COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF
7 INDIVIDUALS FISHING UNDER A CONSOLIDATED CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL
8 SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 4-745(D)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

9 (2) COLLECT INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF TRIPS
10 TAKEN AND FISH CAUGHT AND RELEASED UNDER A CONSOLIDATED CHESAPEAKE
11 BAY AND COASTAL SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE; AND

12 (3) IMPROVE REGISTRATION COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREE
13 REGISTRATION AUTHORIZED UNDER § 4-745(D)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14 (D) TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY TO PURCHASE A CONSOLIDATED
15 CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE, THE HOLDER OF
16 THE LICENSE SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED
17 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRACK ON A MONTHLY BASIS COSTS
19 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT PROGRAM.

20 (F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND EACH DECEMBER 1
21 THEREAFTER FOR THE DURATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT
22 SHALL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXPECTED FUNDING NEEDED TO GROW AND
23 ESTABLISH THE PILOT PROGRAM AS A PERMANENT PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR
24 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE
25 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

26 (G) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT
27 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

29 (a) There is a Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing.

30 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

1 (1) at least eight representatives of tidal and nontidal recreational
2 fisheries, designated by the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission;

3 (2) one representative of Morgan State University's Patuxent
4 Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL), designated by the Director of
5 PEARL;

6 (3) one representative of the University of Maryland Center for
7 Environmental Science (UMCES), designated by the President of UMCES;

8 (4) one representative of St. Mary's College of Maryland, designated by the
9 President of St. Mary's College of Maryland;

10 (5) one representative of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore,
11 designated by the President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and

12 (6) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Natural
13 Resources:

14 (i) at least one resource assessment statistician; and

15 (ii) at least one technical expert on coastal fisheries.

16 (c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall designate the chair of the Task
17 Force.

18 (d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

19 (e) A member of the Task Force:

20 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

23 (f) The Task Force shall:

24 (1) study methods for improving the accuracy of catch and effort estimates
25 in recreational fisheries;

26 (2) develop a multiyear plan for increasing the frequency of State and
27 regional recreational fisheries surveys that are conducted in a manner that is equitable,
28 inclusive, and statistically valid to all participants, such as online surveys, surveys mailed
29 to a physical address, and telephone surveys;

30 (3) study methods for improving surveying participants who are not
31 frequently surveyed under current methods, including:

1 (i) anglers fishing from a private boat on private access points;

2 (ii) shore-based anglers; and

3 (iii) anglers for whom English is a second language;

4 (4) develop a multiyear outreach plan for increasing participation in public
5 and private volunteer angler data capture systems utilized by fisheries managers; and

6 (5) study additional information that may be collected in recreational
7 surveys to improve fisheries management data, knowledge, or models, such as:

8 (i) fish length;

9 (ii) fish disposition; and

10 (iii) biological data.

11 (g) On or before December 1, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and
12 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
13 Government Article, the General Assembly.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
15 1, 2022. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and 1 month and,
16 at the end of June 30, 2027, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the
17 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. Section 2 of this
18 Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30,
19 2023, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
20 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.