A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Hunting and Fishing – Recreational License Fees – Moratorium

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to waive certain annual hunting license fees for State residents for a certain license year; requiring the Department to waive a certain portion of the annual fee for certain recreational fishing licenses that are effective during a certain time period; requiring the Department to rebate certain overpayments of annual recreational fishing license fees to the license holders; and generally relating to a moratorium on annual recreational hunting and fishing license fees.

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

(a) The Department of Natural Resources shall waive the annual hunting license fees established under § 10–301 of the Natural Resources Article for a State resident for the 2022–2023 hunting year that begins August 1, 2022 and runs through July 31, 2023.

(b) (1) The Department of Natural Resources shall waive the annual fee for a State resident for the portion of a license year that falls between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023, inclusive, for the following recreational fishing licenses:

(i) the angler’s license issued under § 4–604 of the Natural Resources Article;

(ii) the Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license issued under § 4–745 of the Natural Resources Article; and

(iii) the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license issued under § 4–216 of the Natural Resources Article.
(2) For recreational fishing licenses subject to this subsection and issued before August 1, 2022, the Department of Natural Resources shall:

(i) proportionally prorate the annual license fee based on the amount of time the license is to be effective during the period between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023, inclusive; and

(ii) rebate any overpayment to the license holder.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 2 months and, at the end of July 31, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.