

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1238  
(Delegate Hornberger, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Department of Natural Resources - Documents - Digital or Electronic Issuance**

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This bill expands a requirement – that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) make available and issue certain licenses and stamps in a digital or electronic format – to apply to all licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates issued by the department, with specified exceptions. The bill correspondingly expands an authorization for an individual to satisfy any requirement to possess or display those documents by possessing or displaying the documents in a digital or electronic format; however, requirements under State law or regulations to attach, affix, or display numbers, stickers, or decals associated with a license, stamp, permit, registration, or certificate on a vehicle, vessel, dock, or gear still apply. The bill expresses the General Assembly’s intent that any licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or certificates that cannot be issued in a digital or electronic format because of federal restrictions be issued in a digital or electronic format whenever the restrictions are eliminated. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 286 of 2021 requires DNR to make available and, on request, issue any license or stamp authorized under specified provisions (that require or authorize angler’s licenses, trout stamps, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses, special charter boat licenses, special commercial fishing pier licenses, and hunting licenses and

stamps) in a digital or electronic format. With the exception of an annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, which must be permanently affixed to a boat, Chapter 286 allows for an individual to satisfy any requirement under the Natural Resources Article of the Maryland Code to possess or display those licenses or stamps by possessing or displaying the document in a digital or electronic format as provided by DNR.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 545 of 2021 as introduced; the bill was amended and enacted as Chapter 286.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 10 (Senators Bailey and Hester) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 20, 2023  
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