

SENATE BILL 152

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0753
CF 4lr0752

By: **Senator Bailey**

Requested: September 28, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Fee Exemptions – Residents Eligible for**
3 **Assistance Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting residents who are eligible for certain assistance programs
5 from the annual fee for angler’s licenses, trout stamps, and Chesapeake Bay and
6 coastal sport fishing licenses; and generally relating to fees for fishing licenses and
7 stamps.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–604(b) and (f), 4–614(c), and 4–745(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Natural Resources
15 Section 4–604(e)(1) and 4–614(a)(1) and (2)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Natural Resources**

21 4–604.

22 (b) **(1)** Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler’s license to fish
23 in the nontidal waters of the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2)** An angler’s license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of
2 the State only during the open season.

3 (e) (1) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

4 (i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;
5 and

6 (ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the
7 Department on the application.

8 (f) (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the following annual license
9 fees shall apply:

10 (i) Resident \$20.50

11 (ii) Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term license
12 valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issuance \$7.50

13 (iii) Resident and nonresident blind persons No fee

14 (iv) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE**
15 **FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
16 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**
17 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

18 (v) Complimentary license No fee

19 (2) For a nonresident:

20 (i) The fee for an annual angler’s license is the greater of:

21 1. \$30.50; or

22 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the
23 nonresident’s home state for a similar license; and

24 (ii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from
25 the date of issuance is the greater of:

26 1. \$7.50; or

27 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the
28 nonresident’s home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or
29 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

1 (iii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 3 consecutive days from
2 the date of issuance is the greater of:

3 1. \$5; or

4 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the
5 nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or
6 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

7 (3) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted
8 angler's licenses and trout stamps to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple
9 Heart Award.

10 (4) (i) All fees collected by the Department under this section may only
11 be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

12 (ii) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts
13 collected and the expenditures under this section.

14 4-614.

15 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas
16 where a trout stamp is required.

17 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may
18 not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless
19 the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license.

20 (c) The following annual trout stamp fees shall apply:

21 (1) Resident..... \$5

22 (2) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR**
23 **NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
24 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**
25 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

26 (3) Nonresident..... \$10

27 4-745.

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

1 license or registration.

2 (2) The license may be obtained from the Department or from any
3 authorized agent of the Department.

4 (3) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, the following annual license
5 fees shall apply:

6 (i) Resident.....\$15

7 (ii) Short-term resident license valid for 7 consecutive days from
8 date of issue.....\$6

9 (iii) For a short-term nonresident license valid for 7 consecutive days
10 from date of issue.....\$12

11 (iv) Nonresident.....\$22.50

12 (v) Resident and nonresident blind persons.....No fee

13 (vi) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE**
14 **FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
15 **PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,**
16 **AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

17 (vii) Complimentary license under subsection (e) of this
18 section.....No fee

19 (4) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted
20 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses to Maryland residents who are recipients
21 of the Purple Heart Award.

22 (5) Except as provided in subsection (d)(1) of this section, every
23 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license and registration shall be valid for 1 year
24 following the date of issuance.

25 (6) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

26 (i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;
27 and

28 (ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the
29 Department on the application.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2024.