

# HOUSE BILL 446

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CF SB 186

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By: **Delegates T. Morgan, Addison, Beauchamp, Ciliberti, Davis, Foley, Hartman,  
Hutchinson, Jacobs, Otto, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Blue and Flathead Catfish Finfish Trotline License – Prohibited**  
3 **Regulations**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain regulations adopted by the Department of Natural  
5 Resources from prohibiting the holder of a commercial blue and flathead catfish  
6 finfish trotline license from fishing in a certain part of the Chesapeake Bay; and  
7 generally relating to the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 4–701.2  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 4–701.2.

17 (a) There is a commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license.

18 (b) (1) The license authorizes the holder to catch for sale blue and flathead  
19 catfish in the tidal waters of the State using a finfish trotline, as defined in Department  
20 regulations.

21 (2) **(I)** A licensee shall fish in accordance with Department regulations.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(II) REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**  
2 **THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT PROHIBIT A LICENSEE FROM FISHING IN THE MAIN STEM**  
3 **OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY THAT IS SOUTH OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE.**

4           (c)     A person who wishes to obtain the license shall complete and submit an  
5 application for the license to the Department or any person designated by the Department.

6           (d)     An applicant for the license does not need to hold a tidal fish license under §  
7 4-701 of this subtitle to be eligible for the license.

8           (e)     The term of the license is 1 year from September 1 through August 31 the  
9 following year.

10          (f)     The annual license fee is \$15.

11          (g)     A licensee may not transfer a license issued under this section.

12          (h)     A licensee shall have a commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline  
13 license in the licensee's possession when the licensee fishes under the license.

14                 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2025.