

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 1322

(Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Natural Resources - Vessels - Carbon Monoxide Warning Labels (Matthew's Law)

This bill prohibits a person from operating a gasoline-powered vessel manufactured after July 31, 2007, that has accommodation spaces, swim platforms, or aft (rear) lounging areas on the waters of the State unless the vessel has carbon monoxide warning labels affixed in conspicuous locations in the vicinity of both the transom (rear) and the helm (steering area) of the vessel. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may not impose a penalty on a person that violates the bill's prohibition.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: “Vessel,” as it applies to the State Boat Act (to which the bill’s prohibition is added), means any description of watercraft, including an ice boat but not including a seaplane, that is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water or ice. It includes the motors, spars, sails, and accessories of a vessel.

“Waters of the State” means any water within the jurisdiction of the State, the marginal sea adjacent to the State, and the high seas when navigated as part of a ride or journey to or from the shore of the State.

Under the State Boat Act, DNR must, among other things, promote the safety of life and property through an educational program directed to boat owners, boat operators, and others concerning the inherent hazards to vessels and people on the waters, including precautions to be observed, and emergency action.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 1028 (Senator Gile) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Worcester counties; Baltimore City; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Natural Resources; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2025
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