

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 103 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Boating Accidents - Reporting Requirement - Property Damage

This bill specifies that for purposes of an existing reporting requirement for accidents involving vessels on State waters, property damage to a vessel includes damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Reporting Requirement

Under current law, if any vessel that is subject to the State Boat Act (Title 8, Subtitle 7 of the Natural Resources Article) is involved in an accident while on the waters of the State and the accident results in the death, disappearance, or injury of any person or in property damage of \$2,000 or more, or there is complete loss of the vessel, the operator must file a report with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that includes a full description of the accident, including any information DNR requires by regulation.

Under current law, the report must be made within 48 hours if the accident caused a death or a disappearance, or if a person receives medical treatment beyond first aid. Any other accident involving personal injury or property damage must be reported within 10 days.

Under the bill, for purposes of the 10-day reporting requirement, property damage includes damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers.

Required Contents of Report (Not Altered by the Bill)

Pursuant to DNR regulations (COMAR [08.04.07.01](#)), the report must be dated upon completion, signed by the person who prepared it, and provide extensive specified information about the accident, including a description of all property damage and vessel damage with an estimate of the cost of all repairs.

Accidents on Out-of-state Waters (Not Altered by the Bill)

If any vessel numbered in the State is involved in an accident on waters outside of the State, and the accident results in the death, disappearance, or injury of any person or in property damage of \$2,000 or more, the operator or owner must file a complete report with DNR within 30 days.

Evidentiary Provisions (Not Altered by the Bill)

A boating accident report may not be referred to during any judicial proceeding and is not subject to subpoena or admissible as evidence in any proceeding. However, information contained in a boating accident report and any statistical information based on the report may be provided to the U.S. Coast Guard on request for official purposes.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
rh/aad

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