

# HOUSE BILL 1535

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By: **Delegates Jacobs, Baker, Beauchamp, Buckel, Ciliberti, Ghrist, Howard, Hutchinson, McComas, T. Morgan, Reilly, and Schmidt**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Recreational Fishing – Mobile Reporting Application**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to develop a mobile  
4 application for individuals possessing an angler's license or Chesapeake Bay and  
5 coastal sport fishing license or registration to submit certain reports; and generally  
6 relating to a mobile application for submitting reports to the Department of Natural  
7 Resources.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 4–223

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – Natural Resources

15 Section 4–604(b) and (i) and 4–745(a)(1) and (f)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 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 **4–223.**

22 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A MOBILE APPLICATION FOR USE**  
23 **BY AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED UNDER § 4–604 OR § 4–745 OF THIS TITLE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPED UNDER THIS**  
2 **SECTION IS TO ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ANY REPORT**  
3 **TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 4-604(I) OR § 4-745(F) OF THIS TITLE TO SUBMIT**  
4 **THE REPORT THROUGH THE APPLICATION.**

5           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY TO DEVELOP**  
6 **THE MOBILE APPLICATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

7 4-604.

8           (b) Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in the  
9 nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal  
10 waters of the State only during the open season.

11           (i) Every person licensed under this section shall submit any report the  
12 Department requires in accordance with Department regulations.

13 4-745.

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

20           (f) Every person licensed under this section shall submit any report the  
21 Department requires in accordance with Department regulations.

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2026.