

SENATE BILL 559

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6lr2609
CF 6lr3588

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Recreational Striped Bass Catch – Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring every person who catches striped bass under a Chesapeake
4 Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration to report the catch to the
5 Department of Natural Resources; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to
6 carry out this Act, including regulations authorizing certain reporting methods,
7 authorizing a person to report the catch through a mobile application to the
8 maximum extent feasible, and establishing a reporting method that is usable by
9 persons who do not have Internet access; and generally relating to reporting
10 requirements for the recreational catching of striped bass.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Natural Resources
13 Section 4–745(a)(1) and (f)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Natural Resources
18 Section 4–745(g)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Natural Resources**

24 4–745.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

(G) (1) EVERY PERSON WHO CATCHES STRIPED BASS UNDER A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SHALL REPORT THE CATCH TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:

1. AUTHORIZE REPORTING METHODS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES TO BE FEASIBLE;

2. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, AUTHORIZE A PERSON TO REPORT THE CATCH THROUGH A MOBILE APPLICATION; AND

3. ESTABLISH A REPORTING METHOD THAT IS USABLE BY PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2027.