

SENATE BILL 610

M2

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr3358
CF HB 947

By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Natural Resources – Commercial Blue and Flathead Catfish**
3 **Finfish Trotline License – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license
5 to allow a person to catch blue catfish with certain gear; and generally relating to
6 the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 4–701.2
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 4–701.2.

16 (a) There is a commercial blue and flathead catfish [finfish trotline] license.

17 (b) (1) The license authorizes the holder to catch for sale [blue and flathead]
18 **IN THE TIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE:**

19 **(I) BLUE CATFISH USING, AS DEFINED IN DEPARTMENT**
20 **REGULATIONS:**

21 **1. A FINFISH TROTLINE; OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) **FLATHEAD** catfish [in the tidal waters of the State] using a finfish trotline, as defined in Department regulations.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.