

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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January 29, 2020

**Senate Bill 257 - Fishing Gear - Crab Pots - Ghost Panel Requirement**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 257, which would address the issue of abandoned or lost crab pots in Maryland waterways.

This bill requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt regulations to require all crab pots be equipped with ghost panels. The bill defines a "ghost panel" as a panel or other mechanism that is designed to allow crabs to escape from a crab pot after a period of time if the pot is abandoned or lost.

Because modern crab pots are designed to not corrode in the water, crab pots that are abandoned or lost continue to catch crabs. I understand the concerns of commercial watermen who will see an increase in their operating costs as a result of this legislation. However, I do not see how anyone benefits from marine life dying in these abandoned pots. This reduces the available crab population available for all Marylanders to catch.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 257. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties