

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

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 402  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2020

**Senate Joint Resolution 4 – Recognition of Maryland License Suspensions and Revocations by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Joint Resolution 4 – Recognition of Maryland License Suspensions and Revocations by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. If enacted, this resolution requests that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission take action, consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, to prohibit a person from participating in a fishery under the Commission's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland has been suspended or revoked.

Across this country, the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact is currently composed of 47 member states. The IWVC also includes a reciprocal recognition of license privilege suspension by member states. Wildlife law violators are held accountable due to the fact that their illegal activities in one state can affect their privileges in all participating states. The Potomac River Fisheries Commission is not part of this compact.

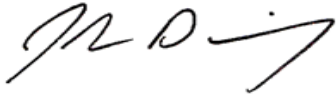
Under the current rules established by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, a person who has had their fishing license suspended or revoked in Maryland does not lose their right to fish in the Potomac River. Since the Potomac River is governed by the Commission under the terms of an interstate compact, the Maryland General Assembly does not have the authority to pass a law to stop this from occurring. Therefore, this resolution requests that the Commission use their powers to ensure that individuals who have had their license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland suspended or revoked to also lose their right to fish in the Potomac River.

Since introducing this Joint Resolution, I have worked with the Department of Natural Resources to introduce legislation establishing a Task Force on Reciprocity of Fishing License Penalties. This legislation was not filed before the bill introduction date and that bill is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. I firmly believe that the General Assembly should take some action in this legislative session to make it clear to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission that we believe people who have had their fishing licenses suspended or revoked in Maryland should also lose their ability to fish in the Potomac River. I am confident that with this firm

request we can protect our natural resources that are so vulnerable to overfishing and poaching.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Joint Resolution 4. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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