

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 10, 2021

**Senate Bill 318 – Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 318 – Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights. This bill would affirm the importance of hunting and fishing to Maryland's cultural and social heritage and economy. The bill also codifies the intent of the General Assembly that Marylanders have a right to hunt and fish in accordance with regulations and restrictions under laws enacted by the General Assembly.

Both during my career as a Natural Resources Police Officer and during my tenure in the Senate, I have seen the importance of responsible hunting and fishing to our State, and to our rural communities in particular. I believe that we need to protect and expand the rights of Marylanders to hunt and fish in our State. Passage of this bill would also support the hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who fish and hunt and the hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity that hunting and fishing generate in our State each year.

Reasonable regulation of hunting and fishing is necessary to preserve our environment for future generations to enjoy, and this legislation recognizes the General Assembly's important role with hunting and fishing. These statutes need to be balanced with the rights of our residents in this area. Formal recognition of these rights are intended to help in protecting this balance.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill 86 as it passed this Committee and the Senate in the 2020 Legislative Session. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 318. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

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