

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

February 10, 2021

Senate Bill 203 – Aquaculture Lease Applications - Notices, Protests, Meetings, and Conflict Resolution

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 203 – Aquaculture Lease Applications - Notices, Protests, Meetings, and Conflict Resolution. I have introduced Senate Bill 203 in response to concerns that have arisen, particularly in St. Mary's County, regarding the placement of aquaculture leases.

This bill is intended to address the conflicts between waterfront property owners and applicants for oyster leases that have become far too common in our area. Oysters are very important to the Chesapeake Bay and critical to our region as a whole. Often when the General Assembly gets involved in promulgating new laws, there are unintended consequences that arise in the process. This legislation was crafted in hopes of deescalating the controversy that was created ten years ago when the current oyster leasing laws were established.

I would like to thank Chairman Pinsky for working with me on amendments to this bill during the 2020 Legislative Session. After realizing that we had introduced very similar legislation on this issue, Chairman Pinsky and I were able to propose amendments that have incorporated in this bill to present one piece of legislation to address this issue which is so important to my District.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 203. 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