



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support with Amendments – House Bill 545 – Natural Resources – Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Certificates – Digital or Electronic Format

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports House Bill 545 as amended. The bill would enable the department to issue all recreational fishing and hunting licenses and permits electronically by repealing current signature requirements. HB 545 also clarifies it is illegal to provide false information to obtain a license.

The department supports the further amendments introduced by the bill's sponsor to narrow the scope to only recreational hunting and fishing licenses. The amendments also clarify that the recreational licenses do not need an electronic signature to be valid. This meets the original concern of the bill's sponsor, which is to eliminate the existing confusion for customers and Natural Resources Police over signature requirements when inspecting licenses in the field. The department also requests a housekeeping amendment to clarify that the sport fishing boat decal is still required to be affixed to the vessel as provided in Natural Resources Article, Section 4-745(d)(2).

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services