

Delegation Support HB 1117.pdf

Uploaded by: Hershey, Steve

Position: FAV

STEPHEN S. HERSHEY, JR.
Legislative District 36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and
Queen Anne's Counties

Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith,

The Queen Anne's County Delegation supports House Bill 1117 Pedestrians - Kent Island Drawbridge - Fishing Prohibition. I thank you for your committee's consideration of this bill and request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen S. Hershey, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.

HB1117_QAC_Moran_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Moran, James

Position: FAV



**Queen
Anne's
County**

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**

The Liberty Building
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

e-mail: QACCommissioners&Administrator@qac.org

County Administrator: Todd R. Todd, PE
Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: Margie A. Houck
County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
Stephen Wilson, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

February 23, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1117 - Kent Narrows Bridge – State Highway Right-of-Way – Fishing Prohibition

Dear Senator Smith:

Please consider this letter of support for House Bill 1117. This bill would prohibit a pedestrian from catching fish, by any means, within the State highway right-of-way at the Kent Narrows Bridge in Queen Anne's County.

This bill would prohibit fishing under or around the Kent Narrows Draw bridge along MD Route 18 where this activity is hazardous to both the boating public and to the fishing patrons. In addition, to allow for enforcement of a fine/penalty to individuals that willfully violate this activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this legislation.

Respectfully,

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Christopher M. Corchiarino, President

Stephen Wilson

Philip L. Dumenil

James J. Moran

Jack N. Wilson, Jr.

HB1117_DNR_SUP JPR 4-1-2021.pdf

Uploaded by: McKitrick, James

Position: INFO



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

April 1, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Office Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1117 – Kent Narrows Bridge – State Highway Right-of-Way – Fishing Prohibition

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on House Bill 1117 as amended. This bill will prohibit pedestrians from catching fish or attempting to catch fish by any means on or under the Maryland Route 18 drawbridge at the Kent Narrows in Queen Anne's County.

Persons fishing from the Old Kent Narrows Bridge on Maryland Route 18 is a frequent occurrence that endangers the safety of the person fishing from the bridge due the proximity of passing traffic. Fishing from this bridge also poses a potential hazard to recreational boaters and commercial fishermen passing beneath, as they are occasionally hit by fishing gear being cast from the bridge and have become entangled in abandoned gear left suspended from the bridge. Similarly, access beneath the bridge is treacherous and has led to situations of individuals slipping into the channel while attempting to fish.

Due to conditions attached to funding that was used to improve the Maryland Route 18 crossing several years ago, the current signage on both ends of the bridge prohibiting fishing cannot be legally enforced. HB 1117 places the necessary prohibition in the Transportation Article, allowing for enforcement by all state and local law enforcement officers, as every agency has the ability to write transportation violations. Conversely, if this prohibition was drafted to the Natural Resources Article, only Natural Resources Police has the means to write citations.

Thank you for allowing the department to provide the above information on HB 1117 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKittrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service