

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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March 1, 2022

**Senate Bill 455 – Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and Recreational Fishing – Pilot Program and Task Force**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 455 – Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and Recreational Fishing – Pilot Program and Task Force. This bill establishes a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the pilot program is to collect contact information and demographic data of individuals fishing under an annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license and information regarding the number of trips taken and fish caught and released under a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license. The pilot program is also intended to improve compliance with a provision that requires individuals who are currently allowed to fish without a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license to register with the Department of Natural Resources.

Under this bill, a license holder must provide to DNR the information requested under the pilot program to maintain eligibility to purchase a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license. DNR is directed to track costs associated with implementing the pilot program and annually report recommendations on expected funding needed to grow and establish the program as a permanent program. The bill also creates a Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing to develop a plan to improve recreational fishing data collection for fisheries management.

In 2014 and then again in 2020, this committee and the full General Assembly passed legislation which directed the Department of Natural Resources to study methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery. These reports did not result in any substantial changes in how this information is collected. This bill is the next step in obtaining the accurate data needed to properly estimate the number of fish, including striped bass, being caught in Maryland to aid those who fish both for commercial and recreational purposes by working towards a sustainable fishery.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 455. 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