

SB0064_DNR_SUP_ENT_3-30-22.pdf

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Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 64

Short Title: Beach Erosion Control District- State and City Owned Structures

Department's Position: Support

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Department or DNR) supports SB 64.

When DNR was contacted about the proposed expansion of the Ocean City Lifesaving Museum in 2017, our department evaluated the request. After careful review, we informed the Town of Ocean City that our approval of the project was contingent on a legislative change to Section 8-1102 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Although the project will not alter the Beach Erosion Control District (District), it does involve a prohibited activity, which is placement of a permanent structure within the District.

Based on the initial information provided, the Department does not believe the structure would impact the current natural environment. The change in the above cited 8-1102 would allow us to further review the request to ensure there is no significant permanent environmental damage to the District.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.

Senator Carozza Testimony (E&T).pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
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Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 28, 2022

The House Environment and Transportation Committee
SB 64 Beach Erosion Control District - State- and City-Owned Structures
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 64 Beach Erosion Control District-State-and-City-Owned Structures as amended. This legislation has been requested by the Town of Ocean City.

This bill exempts the repair, renovation, reconstruction, or expansion of an existing structure owned by the State or the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City from an existing prohibition against land clearing, construction activity, or the construction of or placement of permanent structures within the Beach Erosion Control District as long as the project does not result in any significant permanent environmental damage to the district as determined by the Department of Natural Resources.

Under current law, any construction activity with some specific, narrow exceptions is prohibited in the Beach Erosion Control District. This means that under current law certain important Ocean City facilities cannot be repaired or replaced including the Ocean City Amusement Pier, the Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot, and the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum.

Senate Bill 64 as amended would provide a mechanism to repair, replace and, with specific limitations, add on to these existing facilities with the approval of the Ocean City Mayor and Council and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The bill only applies to existing facilities owned by the State or Ocean City.

The immediate need for passage of SB 64 is to bring the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, built in 1891, into compliance with the federal Americans for Disabilities Act and current fire safety codes. With the passage of last year's capital budget, the Maryland General Assembly approved \$600,000 for ADA upgrades to be made to the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum. However, based on review by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, DNR cannot approve the ADA upgrades work to the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum without a legislative change to Section 8-1102 of the Natural Resources Article.

We in Ocean City are excited about the upgrades to the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum as this site is the heart of telling Ocean City's story and the history of the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

This bill takes a responsible approach on allowing this priority project and other projects to move forward by making clear that it applies to existing facilities only; must have the approval of the Ocean City Mayor, Council and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and must not result in any significant permanent environmental damage.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report of SB 64 and invite you for an adventure to visit the Ocean City Life-Saving Museum in the future. Thank you for your kind consideration.