

Proposed_Amend_Sponsor_HB1217

Uploaded by: Delegate Mautz Delegate Mautz

Position: FAV



HB1217/913724/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
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DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

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BY: Delegate Mautz

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1217

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “– **Increase**”; and in line 5, after “bars;” insert “adding Baltimore County to the list of counties for which a certain percent of a certain tax increase is required to be used for the oyster seed program in the county;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2 after line 21, and on page 3 after line 6, in each instance, insert:

“(II) BALTIMORE;”.

On page 2, in lines 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29, strike “(II)”, “(III)”, “(IV)”, “(V)”, “(VI)”, “(VII)”, “(VIII)”, and “(IX)”, respectively, and substitute “(III)”, “(IV)”, “(V)”, “(VI)”, “(VII)”, “(VIII)”, “(IX)”, and “(X)”, respectively.

On page 3, in line 1, strike “(X)” and substitute “(XI)”; and in lines 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, strike “(II)”, “(III)”, “(IV)”, “(V)”, “(VI)”, “(VII)”, “(VIII)”, “(IX)”, and “(X)”, respectively, and substitute “(III)”, “(IV)”, “(V)”, “(VI)”, “(VII)”, “(VIII)”, “(IX)”, “(X)”, and “(XI)”, respectively.

HB1217 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Johnny Mautz

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2022

SPONSOR TESTIMONY
DELEGATE JOHNNY MAUTZ
DIST. 37B – CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, TALBOT & WICOMICO COUNTIES

HB 1217-NATURAL RESOURCES-OYSTER INSPECTION AND SEVERANCE TAXES-INCREASE

Summary

HB1217 increases the tax levied on each bushel of oysters shipped out of state. The current rate is .30 and if enacted, the new rate would be \$1. HB1217 also increases the tax levied on oysters harvested from Maryland public fishing areas, exclusive of the Potomac River, from \$1 to \$2 per bushel. All taxes collected shall be credited to the Fisheries Research and Development Fund and used only for the repletion of the natural oyster bars of the State.

Background

Revenues from these taxes are necessary to fund oyster recruitment efforts throughout the Bay via Oyster Committees. Representatives from all of oyster committees have voted to request this increase.

Rationale

The cost of all aspects of growing and harvesting oysters has increased since these taxes were increased. The increase is necessary to ensure that support for investing in oyster recruitment is current with these increasing costs.

Amendment

Currently, Baltimore County does not report significant oyster harvests and is excluded in the original text of this legislation. Our oyster committees have voted to include Baltimore County in this legislation and a Sponsor Amendment has been prepared to add Baltimore County to this legislation. We request that you adopt this amendment.

Conclusion

We respectfully request a **favorable report of HB1217** from the Committee and thank you for considering this important legislation.

HB1217 - SUPPORT - St. Mary's County.pdf

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

House Bill 1217

Natural Resources - Oyster Inspection and Severance Taxes - Increase

SUPPORT

March 1, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

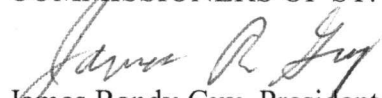
Dear Chairman Barve:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT** HB 1217 – Natural Resources – Oyster Inspection and Severance Taxes – Increase which will be heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support HB 1217 and urge a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/062

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Catherine Pratson, Acting Co-County Administrator
David Weiskopf, Acting, Co-County Administrator

HB1217_FWA_Newberry

Uploaded by: Capt. Rob Newberry

Position: FWA



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House Environment and Transportation Committee

House Bill 1217

Natural Resources – Oyster Inspection and Severance Taxes - Increase

Testimony in **SUPPORT with amendment**

Friday, March 4, 2022

The Delmarva Fisheries Association (DFA) urges a **favorable** report on House Bill 1217 with an amendment to include the Baltimore County Oyster Committee on the list of county oyster committees intended to utilize the revenue generated for the betterment of the public fishery.

The “bushel tax” is a fundamental source of industry generated revenue for the repletion of natural oyster bars through Chesapeake Bay. The additional revenue generated **from** the industry with the passage of HB 1217 (by increasing from \$1.00 to \$2.00 the per bushel “severance tax” paid by commercial oyster harvesters for oysters harvested from public natural oyster bars) will give a boost to the ongoing efforts of County Oyster Committees to routinely plant oyster seed and shell in strategic locations throughout the Bay and tributaries for purposes of oyster replenishment and propagation. The conditions in parts of the Bay for natural oyster propagation are the best in decades. More resources now in the hands of County Oyster Committees, where the experience and knowledge about oysters is consolidated, will result in more oysters in the water.

DFA urges a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1217.

DFA represents over 80% of the commercial watermen in Maryland; individuals whose work and unique way of life spanning several generations depend upon sustainable harvests in a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

CONTACT: Capt. Robert Newberry at 410-708-9851 or rnewberry56@gmail.com
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