



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 10

Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance

Date: January 25, 2023

Position: Support with Amendment

To: Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee

From: Allison Colden, Sr. Fisheries Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB 10 which would expand the types of licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) available in digital format.

We understand and support the intent of the legislation to allow boaters, fishers, hunters, and others recreating and utilizing Maryland's natural resources to comply with requirements to carry the appropriate license, registration or permit at the time of the permitted activity by presenting a digital license. This action also aligns with goals to modernize data collection in commercial and recreational fisheries.

However, the bill as written removes *all* requirements throughout the Natural Resources Article to physically carry or display a Department of Natural Resources-issued license, stamp, or registration. This presents potential concerns with respect to natural resources law enforcement and accountability. For example, the bill would remove the requirement to display commercial fishing license numbers prominently on a commercial fishing vessel, hampering land-based law enforcement patrols, or the requirement to display boat registration numbers on recreational vessels, making tracing boat owners for lost or abandoned vessels more difficult.

Such enforcement issues could likely be addressed through amendments which clarify and refine the types of licenses and activities for which a digital license, permit, or registration is most appropriate. We are happy to work with the Committee, the Department, and others to craft such amendments if desired.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report WITH AMENDMENTS on SB 10.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.