

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Senate Bill 422 – Natural Resources – Black Bass Conservation Fund – Establishment**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 422, which would establish the Black Bass Conservation Fund in the Department of Natural Resources. This would be funded by a voluntary contribution check off block that would be available when applying for or renewing a fishing license. These funds would be used for black bass management, including for stocking bass, enhancing aquatic habitat, supporting responsible bass tournaments, and supporting scientific research related to black bass conservation.

This concept was brought to my attention by a member of DNR's Black Bass Advisory Committee as one way to support efforts to grow and develop freshwater bass fisheries in Maryland. Funding generated under Senate Bill 422 would allow DNR to expand the number of fisheries that they are able to stock and enhance more aquatic habitat, through the use of reefs as well as through reducing trash accumulation and debris in the water. Increased funding could also ensure continued support of responsible, catch-and-release bass tournaments, particularly ones that encourage these responsible practices among younger anglers. Additionally, this fund could be used to provide additional incentives to anglers to ensure that they report tagged bass that they catch, which is vital to ensure that DNR has the data that they need to monitor the state of Maryland's bass fishery.

All of these are necessary parts of a comprehensive strategy to ensure the continued success of bass in our State, and I am confident that this fund will help to give DNR the additional resources that it needs to undertake these efforts. It is important to note that this fund would be based on voluntary contributions, and DNR advises that they can implement the fund with existing resources.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 422. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey