

JACK BAILEY  
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Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Senate Bill 102 – Natural Resources – Recreational Crabbing License – Exemption**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 102 – Natural Resources – Recreational Crabbing License – Exemption. This bill would exempt individuals under the age of 16 from having to obtain a recreational crabbing license to catch or attempt to catch crabs in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

Existing Maryland law includes an exemption for children under 16 from the requirement to be licensed to catch finfish. This bill is intended to mirror those provisions for crabbing. Individuals under 16 are currently not required to obtain a crabbing license if they are only using handlines or dip nets and do not exceed 2 dozen crabs per day. This exemption should cover all methods of catching crabs.

I became aware of this issue during the interim, and before that I cannot recall a time during or after my service as a Natural Resources Police Officer where children could potentially break the law by using certain methods to catch crabs. However, under the exemption as it currently exists, children who use a method of catching crabs other than handlines and dip nets and the adults supervising them could face legal consequences if caught. I believe that we need to resolve this issue before it impacts the ability of Maryland families to enjoy this tradition that is so important to our State.

Senate Bill 102 is not intended to increase the number of crabs harvested each year, but only to allow children to explore our State's natural resources with their families by treating crabbing in the same manner as fishing. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 102. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey