

HB_1085_FWA_MMCA

Uploaded by: Brandon Weems

Position: FAV

"Protecting & Promoting the Marine
Construction Industry Through Unity
& Leadership."



9691 Cordova Road
Easton, Maryland 21601
www.mdmarinecontractors.org
410-822-0510

March 1, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1085 *Boating – Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts*

Dear Chairman Barve & Committee Members:

The Maryland Marine Contractors Association (M.M.C.A.) provides the following comments on HB1085.

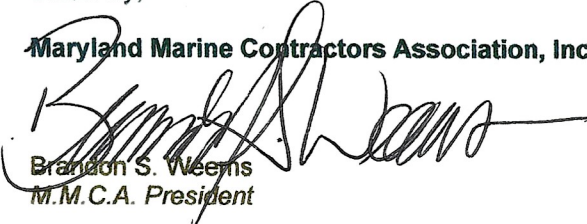
The M.M.C.A. is generally supportive of House Bill 1085 with amendment. In its current form HB1085 could be significantly limiting to the marine construction industry. The bill proposes to prohibit any and all vessels from being in operation within 500 feet of an occupied hunting blind. Our industry is already subject to overlapping regulatory time of year restrictions. We can understand the existing limitations on recreational activities (fishing) within certain limits of hunting activity, but we believe the restriction on working vessels to be overburdensome.

We respectfully request an amendment that exempts all licensed marine contractors, who are working in the vicinity of a stationary blind or blind site that is occupied and being used for hunting migratory waterfowl, from this seasonal restriction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Maryland Marine Contractors Association, Inc.


Brandon S. Weems
M.M.C.A. President

BSW/ksw

HB 1085 Testimony TSH.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Hutchinson

Position: FAV

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3582 · 301-858-3582
800-492-7122 Ext. 3582
Tom.Hutchinson@house.state.md.us

Health and Government Operations
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Dorchester County Delegation

HB1085 Boating- Migratory Waterfowl Season- Prohibited Actions

Environment and Transportation Committee

March 3, 2023

Why We Need This Bill

This bill is a matter of public safety and the Right to Hunt laws.

Many people in Maryland enjoy the migratory waterfowl season to hunt from their stationary blind or blind site without any interruptions. Currently the law states that during migratory hunting season, a person **cannot fish** within 500 yards of any stationary blind site.

Annotate Code Natural Resources 4-512 (attached)

Now with increased recreation on the water, the code does not prohibit anyone on a Vessel such as a boat, canoe, paddle board or other watercraft from coming within 500 yards unless the occupant is fishing. Frequently, hunters are encountering individuals on such vessels and approaching stationary blinds or blind sites. This creates a safety issue to the operator of the vessel and violates the hunters right to hunt.

What Does This Bill Do

HB1085 includes in the bill all water vessels are prohibited to operate within a certain distance of occupied stationary blind or blind site that is being used for hunting during the waterfowl open season.

The Dorchester County Delegation respectfully ask the Committee for a FAVORABLE vote on HB1085.