



*Ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources  
and anglers' access to them*

February 24, 2023

To: Honorable members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

**Re: House Bill 696 – Natural Resources – Black Bass Conservation Fund –  
Establishment.**

**CCA Maryland Position: Support**

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**Coastal Conservation Association(CCA) Maryland requests a FAVORABLE report on  
House Bill 696.**

As Maryland's largest recreational fishing based membership organization, and a longtime participant in cooperative fisheries management, habitat enhancement and the promotion of fishing in Maryland, CCA Maryland supports the establishment of the voluntary donation program which this bill would create.

The Black Bass Conservation Fund would provide the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the ability to process donations made by the public through their online fishing licensing system. The revenue raised through the new fund would be used for stocking black bass, enhancing aquatic habitat, supporting responsible bass tournaments, and supporting scientific research related to conservation of Maryland's black bass resource.

Per the DNR Black Bass Annual Review of 2022, nearly 230,000 licensed anglers classify themselves as Maryland bass anglers. As a widely distributed and popular fish species, black bass, which are more commonly called largemouth bass, currently support highly accessible recreational fisheries on public waterways in every jurisdiction of the state.

**For these reasons, we respectfully request a FAVORABLE vote on HB 696.** *For further discussion regarding this issue, please contact CCA Maryland Executive Director, David Sikorski – (443)621-9186 – [david@ccamd.org](mailto:david@ccamd.org)*