

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Secretary, Women's Caucus

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel
County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee
In Support of HB 478
Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup
February 17th, 2023

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I come before you today to introduce HB478, which would establish the Waterway Incident Notification (WINS) Workgroup.

This workgroup would study the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards. This legislation has been introduced in response to a number of recent incidents in our State's waterways and is intended to improve the ability of members of the public to be aware of these serious emergencies in their local waterways, both for their own safety and also so that they can assist in locating individuals reported as missing. As a representative of District 30A, we are accustomed to emergency communication issues that water goes face. Including hazards on the water that are difficult to communicate with the large amount of boat traffic we have on the Bay and our two rivers, including coves, creeks, and lakes around the Annapolis area.

After discussions with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, we have determined that the best way to move forward is by forming a workgroup. This legislation will bring together representatives of MDEM, the Natural Resources Police, the Department of Information Technology, the 9-1-1 Board, and local emergency management officials, and members of the General Assembly to determine the best way to create and implement such a system.

I am introducing with this bill an amendment that will add the Department of the Environment to the workgroup at their request. The amendment would also add a provision to give the Chair of

the workgroup discretion to add other members; this was requested by MDEM and reflects similar workgroups that MDEM has participated in before. Finally, the amendment will push back the deadline for the final report to September 30, 2024, with an interim report due on December 31, 2023, to allow the workgroup the flexibility to have more time for their report if needed.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 478 with these amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones