

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 401
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

February 14, 2023

Senate Bill 336 – Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 336, which would establish the Waterway Incident Notification System (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 the water in their area, both for their own safety and also so that they can assist in locating individuals reported as missing.

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 Senate Bill 336 with these amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey