

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

January 23, 2024

Senate Bill 152 – Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Fee Exemptions – Residents Eligible for Assistance Programs

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 152, which would exempt residents who qualify for certain assistance programs from the requirement to pay for fishing licenses and stamps.

Senate Bill 152 would exempt residents eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or Medicaid from fishing license and stamp fees. This legislation is modeled on similar exemptions that exist in several states, particularly North Carolina. It is also similar to exemptions in current law for blind persons.

I have been and continue to be a strong advocate for appropriately funding our State's natural resources. However, I also believe very strongly in the power of self-reliance and that, as the old saying goes, if you give a person a fish, you feed them for a day, but if you teach a person to fish, you feed them for a lifetime. If a person is truly needy enough to be eligible for this assistance, it is highly likely that person is fishing out of a need to feed themselves or their families. I don't believe the State should be pursuing these individuals for being unable to pay for their fishing licenses, and this fee exemption will ensure that will not be the case.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 152. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey