

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

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 256
Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup
February 14th, 2024

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I come before you today to re-introduce HB 256, 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.

The deadline for the final report is September 30, 2025, with an interim report due on December 31, 2024 for any recommendations that the workgroup may have that can be considered at the next legislative session. Additionally, I am submitting this bill to you alongside a small amendment, which specifies protocols on appointee conduct in their capacity as a member of the workgroup

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 256 with this amendment. 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