

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 770
Operating a Vessel While Under the Influence of Alcohol –
Enforcement (Nick’s Law)
DATE: February 15, 2024
(2/22)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 770. This legislation modifies Title 8, Subtitle 7 of the Natural Resources Article to prohibit persons convicted under certain circumstances from operating a water vessel and requiring the Natural Resources Police Force to establish and maintain a database of persons prohibited from operating a water vessel. Under § 8-738, courts are to electronically notify the Department of Natural Resources when a person is convicted of a crime which prohibits them from operating a water vessel, or when a court prohibits a person from operating a vessel. The court must provide the person’s name, address, date of birth, and time period for which the prohibition applies. The Department is tasked with entering the data into the database and maintaining the information until the prohibition expires.

The Judiciary supports this legislation. The Judiciary routinely provides similar information to the Motor Vehicle Administration, so this bill does not pose any significant technological implications for the Judiciary.

cc. Hon. Stuart Schmidt, Jr.
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor