

SB 166 MDE SUP.pdf

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The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

Senate Bill 166
Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 27, 2024
From: Jeremy D. Baker

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 166 as amended.

Bill Summary

The bill creates a workgroup to study the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) to notify members of the public of certain waterway emergencies. WINS would notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards. This includes certain environmental emergencies, such as hazardous substance spills.

The workgroup's membership consists of state legislators, state and local emergency management personnel, and representatives from the Maryland Departments of the Environment, Emergency Management and Information Technology. The Department of Emergency Management shall provide staff for the workgroup.

Position Rationale

Considering the feasibility of enhancing public notification systems for environmental and other marine hazards benefits and protects the residents of Maryland. Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 166.

SenatorBailey_FWA_SB166_House.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



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March 27, 2024

Senate Bill 166 – Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup

Dear Chairman Korman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 166, which would study the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) in Maryland.

This bill 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.

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.

This bill passed the Senate 44-0 and is the crossfile of House Bill 256, which passed this Committee and the House of Delegates earlier this session. I have had the opportunity to review the House's amendment to make this legislation into a study rather than a workgroup and support that change. Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable report with this Committee's amendment on Senate Bill 166. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Senator Jack Bailey