



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 14, 2024

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 581 - First Reader

SHORT TITLE: State Government - Permit, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports the proposed legislation to provide necessary transparency and reliability around differing permits and licenses that the Department offers. From hunters to boaters to aquaculturists, this legislation will be an important tool for the Agency to continue and expand our efforts to provide meaningful and efficient service to those seeking differing permits or licenses from the Department. The Department also supports the creation of the Government Efficiency Commission in the Office of the Governor – and we look forward to having the opportunity to partner with said Commission to develop strategies to increase efficiency in the Department as well as the ability for the Department to contribute to the State's economic competitiveness.

This legislation also goes hand-in-hand with the development and upcoming launch of our updated licensing system in the Fall of 2024 to provide an easier and more efficient experience to those purchasing licenses from the Department.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Natural Resources issues permits or licenses for a variety of different purposes. These range from hunting licenses or stamps; boating certificates of number; fishing licenses or stamps; licenses for tree experts, to name a few. Most of these licenses are a part of our online processing system which are processed and issued at the point of sale.

BILL EXPLANATION

House Bill 581 requires the catalog and analysis of all differing permits, licenses, and certificates that the Department issues. The legislation also then requires the Department to share information on our website about said permits, licenses, and certificates along with the time required to process each application. Additionally, this bill also creates the Government Efficiency Commission to monitor and enhance government efficiency and economic competitiveness.

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