

JACK BAILEY
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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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January 24, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 166, which would establish the Waterway Incident Notification System (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 the water in their area, both for their own safety and also so that they can assist in locating individuals reported as missing.

After discussions with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), 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 Department of the Environment, 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. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 336 from last year as it passed this Committee and the full Senate.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 166. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey