

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 103 - Boating Accidents - Reporting Requirement - Property Damage

I am Senator Simonaire presenting SB 103.

Out of respect for the committee's time, and since I worked with the **Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders** on this consensus legislation with no known opposition, I asked my panel to just submit written letters of support.

The JPR committee **unanimously passed SB 585** which deal with **the State Boat Act penalties** and a **reporting requirement** during **any boating accident**.

We simply **ran out of time** in the House of Delegates as they discussed the penalties portion of the bill in the last week of session.

In that bill, there was **small noncontroversial provision** that simply dealt with providing additional reporting information that DNR needed.

To ensure that provision passes this year, the reporting section has been decoupled from the penalties and incorporated into this bill.

To the bill, DNR stated:

"The bill clarifies that a vessel operator is required to report property damage accidents including damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers to ensure that the Department has this information, as the Department is required to report it to the United States Coast Guard."

We **have seen** when this information is not provided, **Coast Guard requirements are not being met** and it can cause confusion after the fact.

I ask for your favorable consideration.