

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 321
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3587 • 301-858-3587
800-492-7122 Ext. 3587
JohnnyRay.Salling@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair Brian J. Feldman

Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

I would like to thank the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for allowing me the opportunity to present Senate Bill 301. SB301 will expand the ability of the Department of Natural Resources to remove abandoned vessels from Maryland's waterways by providing them additional sources of funding.

In 2020, SB219 was passed, which gave the Department of Natural Resources greater authority to remove abandoned vessels. That was a good step in the right direction, which I was very supportive of. But that bill was not adequate in providing the Department the resources it needed to solve this issue.

That is why I introduced SB301. The original language of the bill gave DNR the authority to use funds allocated to the Natural Resources Police to remove abandoned vessels. After meetings with DNR and others, I have submitted an Amendment, which will create a \$1 million appropriation from the General Fund that DNR will be able to utilize.

As we all know, abandoned vessels are not only an eyesore, but they pose serious environmental and safety concerns. These vessels can leak harmful pollutants, which damage fragile ecosystems, and create costly burdens for local governments.

Over the years, my office has received several complaints from concerned constituents about boats being abandoned in their marinas or near their homes. In some cases, they have had trouble getting the assistance they need. It is my hope that by providing additional avenues of funding, DNR will be able to more efficiently deal with this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB301. I ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling