

2025 SB0103 Testimony For 2025-02-04.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

Testimony For SB0103

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable decision for SB0103.

I support amending the State Boat Act to cover accidents/collisions while on the waters of the State to include damage to navigational aid markers, lights, or identifiers as part of the mandatory reporting requirements.

Consequently, please enter a favorable decision for SB0103.

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February 4, 2025

SB0103_DNR_SUP_EEE_2-4-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Dylan Behler

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

February 4, 2025

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 103**

SHORT TITLE: **Boating Accidents – Reporting Requirement – Property Damage**

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

SB 103 enhances public safety and resource protection through additional reporting criteria. By mandating that individuals report damage to navigational aids as a result of a watercraft accident, the bill promotes timely reporting of such damage, which increases the awareness of damaged navigational aids, further prompting timely repair / replacement of such aids to potentially save lives and allow boater to safely traverse the waters of the state.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, NR 8-724 states that a watercraft accident resulting in personal injury or property damage (outside of other reporting requirements for accidents involving death, serious physical injury or damage greater than \$2,000) shall be reported within 10 days. This bill seeks to specifically add damage to navigational aid markers, lights or identifiers to the law as a reporting requirement to the department within 10 days.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill seeks to add damage to navigational side markers, lights or identifiers to the reporting requirements under NR 8-724 as it relates to watercraft property damage accidents on the waters of the state.

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SB 103 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

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BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
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Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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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.