

# **Abandoned Boats 1.pdf**

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## **Abandoned Boats 2.pdf**

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## **Abandoned Boats 3.pdf**

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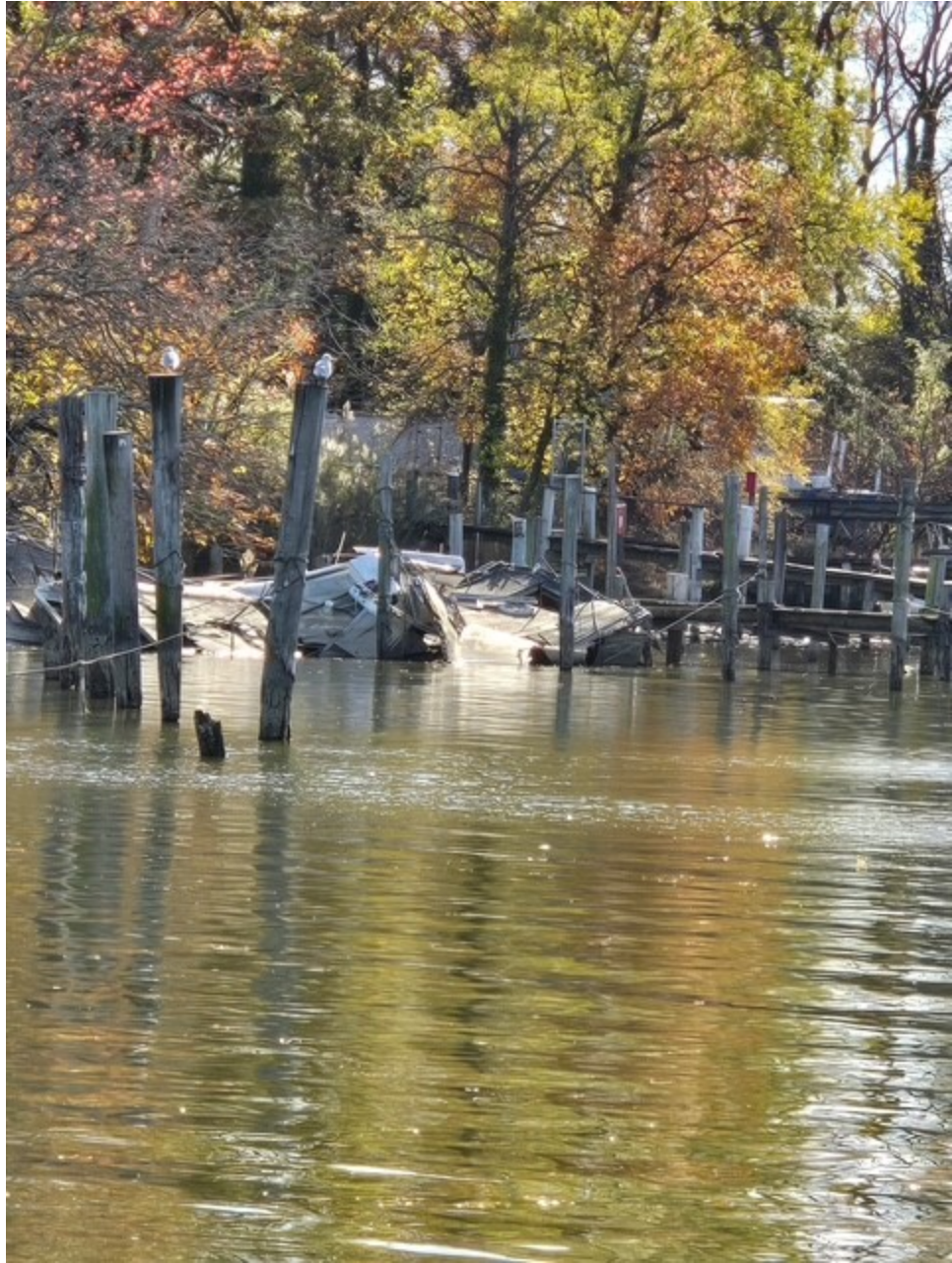
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## **Abandoned Boats 4.pdf**

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## **Abandoned Boats 8.pdf**

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## **Abandoned Boats 9.pdf**

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## **Senator Salling Senate Bill 301 Written Testimony.**

Uploaded by: Jarrett Hartsock

Position: FAV

JOHNNY RAY SALLING  
*Legislative District 6*  
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment Subcommittee



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## 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

# **SB 301 - EEE 02-04-2025 - MTAM Testimony - FAV.pd**

Uploaded by: John Stefancik

Position: FAV



February 4, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 301 – Natural Resources – Removal and Storage of Abandoned or  
Sunken Vessels – Funding**

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 301 which will authorize the Department of Natural Resources to use funds budgeted for the Natural Resources Police to remove or store abandoned or sunken vessels.

Removal of abandoned or sunken vessels are a priority for marinas and boatyards in the State, and additional funds are critical for the success of this important initiative.

The Marine Trades Association of Maryland is a 501(c)(6) organization representing the recreational boating industry in Maryland. The recreational boating industry has a \$4.2 billion economic impact in Maryland representing 16,871 jobs. With 3,190 miles of shoreline, our waterways and watersports are a big part of who we are and why people choose Maryland as their home.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stefancik  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

# **SB0301\_DNR\_OPP\_EEE\_2-4-25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dylan Behler

Position: UNF



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

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Date: **February 4, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 301**

SHORT TITLE: **Removal and Storage of Abandoned or Sunken Vessels - Funding**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **OPPOSE**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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The proposed legislation raises significant fiscal and operational concerns for the Natural Resources Police (NRP). As written, the NRP could be required to allocate resources toward removing abandoned vessels despite the lack of designated funding for such operations. This could strain existing resources, potentially impacting staffing levels and core operational priorities.

Under the current legislative framework, the NRP has effectively met its operational needs, upheld public safety, ensured waterway security, and addressed environmental concerns without diverting operational funds for vessel removal. The existing structure allows the NRP to focus on its primary responsibilities without compromising essential functions.

Furthermore, authorizing operational funds for abandoned vessel removal would increase overall costs, necessitating additional funding to sustain current service levels and operational efficiency. This shift could disrupt critical law enforcement and public safety efforts without a dedicated funding source.

The Department does appreciate the conversations that we have had with the sponsor with regard to abandoned vessels and this bill, and should there be an amendment to ensure that the Natural Resources Police budget is not impacted, we would remove our opposition to the legislation.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Fishing and Boating Services - Hydrographic Services manages the removal of 30-50 abandoned vessels annually, with costs ranging from \$350,000 to \$550,000 annually. These expenses are funded exclusively through Waterway Improvement Funds designated for this purpose. However, Hydro has removed up to 70 vessels in some years. In most cases, Waterway Improvement Funds cannot be used to remove vessels from private property or piers.

The proposed change in language introduces uncertainty regarding the potential reallocation of these costs to the Natural Resources Police (NRP) operational budget, raising concerns about the financial and operational impact on NRP resources.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)

**BILL EXPLANATION**

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to use funds allocated for the Natural Resources Police (NRP) to remove or store abandoned or sunken vessels. Under existing law, NRP operational funds are restricted and cannot be used for abandoned vessel removal or storage.