



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

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February 26, 2025

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 1022 – First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Oyster Restoration – Use of Federal Funds – Prohibition**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: OPPOSE**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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The Department opposes House Bill 1022. The agency uses federal funding for a variety of activities ranging from \$800,000 on larvae production at the Horn Point Laboratory to \$10 million on restoration projects in areas like Hoopers Strait.

The bill would put in jeopardy those grants as those funds have already been approved and the agency is proceeding. This would impact all sanctuary projects, as well as some oyster industry projects and some aquaculture businesses due to a severe decline in larvae production and spat production. This would impact all sanctuary projects, as well as some oyster industry projects and some aquaculture efforts due to a severe decline in larvae production and spat production.

Federal funding is a critical part of combating the decrease in oyster populations. Without the ability to receive funds, many of the critical functions related to oyster production, restoration, and aquaculture could be negatively impacted.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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None.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill would prevent the Department from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030 from receiving federal funds for restoration in sanctuaries, except for those listed under Natural Resources Article, Section 4-1014.

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