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Subcommittees

Alcoholic Beverages
Unemployment Insurance
Workers' Compensation

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 976-FAVORABLE

February 26, 2025

Environment & Transportation Committee

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. I am here to present HB976-State and Private Wetlands-Nonwater Dependent Project-Definition

I have brought a few people to testify on the merits of this legislation.

This bill specifies that a vessel registered under Title 8, Subtitle 7 of the Natural Resources Article (the State Boat Act) is not considered a nonwater-dependent project for the purposes of wetlands licensing and permitting, regardless of how the vessel is used or operated.

While this may sound a bit confusing it is really something that needs to be done to allow for this to be defined better. Non Dependent Vessels exist currently in many forms at marinas today; they can be an office or used as a place for bands to perform as we see at several marinas across the State.

As we will discuss with the panel testimony if a vessel is registered and has paid the appropriate registration and fees to the Department of Natural Resources, there is no need for them to go through a wetland permitting.

I will mention the fiscal note does reflect a loss in revenue. This is a result of not having to get the wetlands license, but they have already paid the fees to DNR to license the vessel.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge a Favorable vote on HB 976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Arentz".

Steven J. Arentz