



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 976 – First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: State and Private Wetlands - Nonwater-Dependent Project - Definition**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

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

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The Department requires vessels equipped with propulsion machinery to be registered unless exempted under Natural Resources Article, Section 8-712. This includes registered vessels that are no longer using their propulsion machinery including vessels that are dry-docked or stored on a lift for purposes other than navigating state waters. This bill would broaden the definition of nonwater-dependent projects.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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None.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill adds any vessel regardless of how it is used or operated to the definition of ‘nonwater-dependent projects.’

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