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Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Alcoholic Beverages
Unemployment Insurance
Workers' Compensation

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Chair, Queen Anne's County Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1260 - FAV

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chairman, Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: HB 1260-STATE BOAT ACT-ABANDONED OR SUNKEN RECREATIONAL VESSELS-IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL

Good afternoon, Chairman Korman and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Steven Arentz, here to present HB1260. This bill will authorize the Department of Natural Resources to remove abandoned or sunken recreational vessels after a certain time and under certain circumstances.

This has become an issue in Queen Anne's County waterways when boats become derelict. Often in lieu of the vessel owner getting a properly permitted piling or paying for a slip at a marina, the boats are tied up on an undocumented piling and left unmaintained. These boats drift and damage piers and boats at piers, sometimes sink and spill oil and gas into the bay.

This bill will also apply to boats left illegally or remained without permission on public property, including public marinas, docks or boatyards, a private marina or private boatyard.

The bill lists several criteria to determine whether a recreational vessel is abandoned and how it may be removed, as well as a sunken boat. The bill provides solutions that will assist the Natural Resources Police in making those determinations.

The Department of Natural Resources may use funds budgeted for the Natural Resources Police to remove or store certain abandoned or sunken vessels.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge a favorable report on HB 1260.

Sincerely,

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

Steven J. Arentz