

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3582 · 301-858-3582
800-492-7122 Ext. 3582
Tom.Hutchinson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

HB1022- Oyster Restoration – Use of Federal Funds – Prohibition

Environment and Transportation Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

What This Bill Does

HB1022 prohibits the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from using federal funds for oyster restoration projects in state waters from 2025 to 2030, except within five designated oyster sanctuaries.

Why We Need This Bill

This bill seeks to balance environmental restoration with local economic interests by limiting federal involvement in oyster restoration outside key sanctuaries. It preserves Maryland's control over its natural resources while allowing essential restoration to continue in designated areas.

According to the Oyster Sanctuaries Report 2016-2020 by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, of the 51 oyster sanctuaries reviewed, most are failing.

The five-year timeframe in the bill, enables a reevaluation of project effectiveness and provides flexibility to adjust future policies based on stakeholder input and scientific data.

We respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on HB1022