



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

February 19, 2025

BILL NUMBER: **House Bill 676 - First Reader**

SHORT TITLE: **Boating Accidents - Duty to Remain at the Scene, Render Assistance, and Provide Information - Penalties**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

HB 676 enhances public safety and resource protection through several key measures. By mandating that individuals remain at the scene and render assistance, the bill promotes timely aid to injured parties, which could reduce the severity of injuries and potentially save lives. It facilitates more efficient and accurate accident investigations by requiring individuals to provide critical information, enabling law enforcement to enforce boating regulations and identify hazardous behaviors. The introduction of stricter penalties acts as a deterrent to reckless actions, promoting safer boating practices and reducing the likelihood of accidents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The penalties established in the bill are consistent with those established in Transportation Article §20-102 for motor vehicle crashes. Currently, the maximum penalty for failing to stop and render aid to the victim of a vessel accident is a \$500 fine for the first offense and a \$1000 and/or 1 year of incarceration for the second offense.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill requires those involved in boating accidents to remain at the scene, render assistance to injured parties, and provide critical information to law enforcement and other parties. It introduces stricter penalties for non-compliance to deter negligent or reckless behavior.

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