

I fully support HB0676, which strengthens Maryland's laws regarding boating accidents by requiring vessel operators to remain at the scene, render aid to those in need, and provide identifying information. This bill is a necessary step in ensuring accountability and compassion in moments of crisis on the water.

This legislation is personal to me. A close friend's mother was tragically killed in a boating accident, and the pain of that loss was compounded by the lack of immediate responsibility taken by those involved. No family should have to endure the added grief of unanswered questions or the injustice of an operator fleeing the scene.

Just as drivers are legally required to stop and assist in the event of a motor vehicle accident, vessel operators should be held to the same standard. HB0676 establishes clear expectations and meaningful penalties for those who fail to do the right thing. It ensures that those in distress receive aid as quickly as possible and that families affected by these tragedies have the answers—and the justice—they deserve.

I urge the General Assembly to pass HB0676 to protect lives, uphold accountability, and ensure that Maryland's waterways remain safe and just for all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Toler

4106600897

Rebecca.toler108@gmail.com