

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



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Senate Bill 135 – State Designations - State Shark - Megalodon

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 135. This bill would designate the megalodon (*Otodus megalodon*) as the State shark.

As the Senator from District 29, I am proud to represent the Calvert Marine Museum, which has been previously designated by the General Assembly as the Maryland State Paleontology Collection and Research Center. I have introduced this legislation at the request of the Museum, which houses over 1,700 fossilized megalodon teeth and believes this is an appropriate recognition based on their research into the megalodon's part in our State's natural history.

Megalodon lived in this area for millions of years, and, although extinct, is a reminder of the importance played by modern and prehistoric sharks in shaping our ecosystem. At nearly 80 feet long, the megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived and one of the largest predators ever. Their fossilized teeth have been predominantly found in Calvert County along Calvert Cliffs, but they are also found in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties. Fossil whale and dolphin bones have been found along Calvert Cliffs that preserve bite marks made by predatory and scavenging activities by megalodon.

Designating the megalodon as the State shark will not only recognize its importance in our State's history but also help support the efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum. For that reason, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 135. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey