



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

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March 6, 2026

BILL NUMBER: **HOUSE BILL 1412 - FIRST READER**

SHORT TITLE: **NATURAL RESOURCES – CRABS – REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED ACTS**

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

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This bill would create a second level of seafood dealers for one type of business. Currently, a person who harvests for sale fish (which includes crabs) from Maryland waters has to be commercially licensed by the Department. They may only sell to a person who possesses a seafood dealer license, or they must have a seafood dealer license to sell the seafood to the ultimate consumer. Businesses, such as seafood markets and restaurants, that purchase from a seafood dealer are currently exempt from holding a license issued by the Department. All seafood harvested from Maryland waters and sold in Maryland should be either sold to a seafood dealer once harvested, or the harvester should have a seafood dealer license to sell it. Additionally, if the product is cooked or otherwise processed for sale to the public, it would need to comply with health department requirements and licensure.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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The Department of Natural Resources issues seafood dealer licenses under Natural Resources Article, Section 4-701 for a person to buy, process, pack, resell, market, or otherwise deal in fish caught in the tidal waters of Maryland. Under Natural Resources Article, Section 4-702, a person does not need to have a seafood dealer license if that person buys finfish, crabs, or shellfish from a person with a seafood dealer authorization under Section 4-701.

### BILL EXPLANATION

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The bill defines a mobile seafood vendor and requires those businesses to be licensed as a seafood dealer. The bill also prohibits these businesses from buying cooked hard or soft crabs or crab meat from a person licensed to catch crabs who is not a seafood dealer. Additionally, the bill requires seafood dealers to comply with requirements from the Department of Health.

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