



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

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April 1, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 588 - FIRST READER**

**SHORT TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES - COMPLIMENTARY FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES - ALTERATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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Senate Bill 588 creates a complimentary sport fishing license privilege for enforcement officers of game and fish departments of other states that reciprocally offer a complimentary sport fishing license to the enforcement officers of the Maryland Natural Resources Police. The Department supports this aspect of the bill as it may provide additional opportunities for Natural Resources Police officers to receive complimentary licenses in other states.

This reciprocity already exists for hunting licenses, and therefore, this bill creates more consistency between Maryland's complimentary fishing and hunting license provisions. Furthermore, the number of complimentary fishing licenses that the Department may issue is already capped at 20 licenses per state. Senate Bill 588 also creates the same cap of 20 licenses per state for hunting licenses, and the Department supports this additional consistency.

The Department was supportive of amendments to remove the provisions of Senate Bill 588 affecting Natural Resources Article, §4-1004.1, Annotated Code of Maryland that pertain to offering complimentary recreational oyster licenses to various categories of nonresidents. Nonresidents have been prohibited from harvesting oysters in Maryland for more than a century, and the Department does not support making any changes to that restriction at this time.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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The Department of Natural Resources currently issues a number of complimentary hunting and fishing licenses under Natural Resources Article, §§4-607, 4-745, 4-1004.1, and 10-303.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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Senate Bill 588 modifies complimentary sport fishing and hunting license privileges.

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