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Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 199 – Boating Fund Companions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 199.

I worked with the *Department of Disabilities, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Veterans and Military Families* and advocates in drafting this consensus legislation.

Recently, the General Assembly passed a bill to create the “*Individuals With Disabilities and Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund*”.

This program offers grant money to non-profits who provide sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, and surfing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and, service–disabled veterans.

This bill improves the grant program by allowing an accompanying family member and direct support professional of an individual with disabilities or a service-disabled veteran to participate in the program.

As you can imagine, many times a person with disabilities cannot participate in programs like this without their support person assisting them.

Without this bill, the program would unintentionally discourage a lot of people from participating and that is the exact opposite of the goal of this program.

Therefore, it makes sense to allow an accompanying family member or a direct support professional to help those with disabilities so they can participate.

It’s a simple improvement that will make the program much better.

There is no opposition, no fiscal impact and a tremendous amount of support.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.