

HOUSE BILL 1535

M2

6lr2731

By: Delegates Jacobs, Baker, Beauchamp, Buckel, Ciliberti, Ghrist, Howard,
Hutchinson, McComas, T. Morgan, Reilly, and Schmidt

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Recreational ~~Fishing – Mobile Reporting Application~~ Striped Bass Catch –**
3 **Reporting**

4 FOR ~~the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to develop a mobile~~
5 ~~application for individuals possessing an angler's license or Chesapeake Bay and~~
6 ~~coastal sport fishing license or registration to submit certain reports; and generally~~
7 ~~relating to a mobile application for submitting reports to the Department of Natural~~
8 ~~Resources every person who catches striped bass under a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport~~
9 ~~fishing license or registration to report the catch to the Department of Natural~~
10 ~~Resources; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to carry out this Act, including~~
11 ~~regulations authorizing certain reporting methods, authorizing a person to report the~~
12 ~~catch through a mobile application to the maximum extent feasible, and establishing a~~
13 ~~reporting method that is usable by persons who do not have Internet access; and generally~~
14 ~~relating to reporting requirements for the recreational catching of striped bass.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources
Section 4-745(a)(1) and (f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

8 BY adding to
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section ~~4-223~~ 4-745(g)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
14 ~~Article – Natural Resources~~
15 ~~Section 4-604(b) and (i) and 4-745(a)(1) and (f)~~
16 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
17 ~~(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Natural Resources**

21 ~~4-223.~~

22 ~~(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A MOBILE APPLICATION FOR USE~~
23 ~~BY AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED UNDER § 4-604 OR § 4-745 OF THIS TITLE.~~

1 ~~(b) THE PURPOSE OF THE MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPED UNDER THIS~~
 2 ~~SECTION IS TO ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ANY REPORT~~
 3 ~~TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 4-604(i) OR § 4-745(f) OF THIS TITLE TO SUBMIT~~
 4 ~~THE REPORT THROUGH THE APPLICATION.~~

5 ~~(c) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY TO DEVELOP~~
 6 ~~THE MOBILE APPLICATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

7 ~~4-604.~~

8 ~~(b) Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in the~~
 9 ~~nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal~~
 10 ~~waters of the State only during the open season.~~

11 ~~(i) Every person licensed under this section shall submit any report the~~
 12 ~~Department requires in accordance with Department regulations.~~

13 ~~4-745.~~

14 ~~(e) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217-~~
 15 ~~of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up~~
 16 ~~to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays~~
 17 ~~and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing~~
 18 ~~license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the~~
 19 ~~license or registration.~~

20 ~~(f) Every person licensed under this section shall submit any report the~~
 21 ~~Department requires in accordance with Department regulations.~~

~~4-745.~~

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section
and § 4-217 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay
or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic
Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries without first obtaining a
Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration issued under
subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the license or registration.

(f) Every person licensed under this section shall submit any report the
Department requires in accordance with Department regulations.

(g) (1) EVERY PERSON WHO CATCHES STRIPED BASS UNDER A CHESAPEAKE BAY
AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SHALL REPORT THE CATCH TO THE
DEPARTMENT.

(2) (i) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS
SUBSECTION.

(ii) REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:

1. AUTHORIZE REPORTING METHODS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
DETERMINES TO BE FEASIBLE;

2. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, AUTHORIZE A PERSON TO
REPORT THE CATCH THROUGH A MOBILE APPLICATION; AND

3. ESTABLISH A REPORTING METHOD THAT IS USABLE BY PERSONS
WHO DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS.