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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.

What this bill does is:

- It allows accompanying family members and direct support professionals 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.

Of course, without this bill - that would 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.

That’s the bill.

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