

# SENATE BILL 455

M2

2lr2748  
CF HB 601

---

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2022

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and Recreational Fishing**  
3 **– Pilot Program and Task Force**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License  
5 Pilot Program to collect certain recreational fishing information and improve  
6 compliance with a certain registration requirement; establishing the Task Force on  
7 Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing to study and develop multiyear  
8 plans for improving the collection and quality of certain recreational fishing data;  
9 and generally relating to the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License  
10 Pilot Program and the Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and  
11 Licensing.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 4–745(d)(2) and (3)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 4–745.1  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

---

### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Natural Resources**

4 4–745.

5 (d) (2) (i) The Department may provide by regulation for issuance of an  
6 annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, which when permanently  
7 affixed to a boat registered in any state shall authorize any person on the boat to fish for  
8 finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries or in State waters  
9 of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries, except that such  
10 a license may not be used on a boat that has been hired to take such persons fishing.

11 (ii) The annual fee for this special license shall be \$50.

12 (iii) If a boat owner purchases the special license under this  
13 paragraph, the boat owner may fish anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries  
14 or the State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their  
15 tributaries, whether the boat owner is fishing in the owner's boat, in another person's boat,  
16 on land, or elsewhere. The Department shall issue a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and  
17 coastal sport fishing license to the boat owner who purchases a special license under this  
18 paragraph. If a boat to which the special license is affixed has more than one owner, then  
19 only the individual applicant who signs the application for the special license shall be  
20 entitled to a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license under this  
21 paragraph.

22 (3) (i) An individual shall register with the Department before fishing  
23 in any of the following areas that do not require a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing  
24 license:

25 1. A free fishing area established under § 4–214(b)(1) of this  
26 title with hook and line;

27 2. On private real property bordering on tidal water as an  
28 owner or tenant of the property, or a spouse or an immediate family member who resides  
29 on the property with the owner or tenant; and

30 3. On a boat licensed under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

31 (ii) There is no fee for registration under this paragraph.

32 (iii) An individual required to register under this paragraph shall  
33 provide all the information requested by the Department.

34 **4–745.1.**

1 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY  
2 AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (B) THERE IS A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE  
4 PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

6 (1) COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF  
7 INDIVIDUALS FISHING UNDER A CONSOLIDATED CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL  
8 SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 4-745(D)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

9 (2) COLLECT INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF TRIPS  
10 TAKEN AND FISH CAUGHT AND RELEASED UNDER A CONSOLIDATED CHESAPEAKE  
11 BAY AND COASTAL SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE; AND

12 (3) IMPROVE REGISTRATION COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREE  
13 REGISTRATION AUTHORIZED UNDER § 4-745(D)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14 (D) TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY TO PURCHASE A CONSOLIDATED  
15 CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT ~~FISHING~~ BOAT LICENSE, THE HOLDER OF  
16 THE LICENSE SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED  
17 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRACK ON A MONTHLY BASIS COSTS  
19 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT PROGRAM.

20 (F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND EACH DECEMBER 1  
21 THEREAFTER FOR THE DURATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT  
22 SHALL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXPECTED FUNDING NEEDED TO GROW AND  
23 ESTABLISH THE PILOT PROGRAM AS A PERMANENT PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR  
24 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE  
25 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

26 (G) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT  
27 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

29 (a) There is a Task Force on Recreational Fishing Data Collection and Licensing.

30 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

31 (1) at least eight representatives of tidal and nontidal recreational  
32 fisheries, designated by the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission;

1 (2) one representative of Morgan State University's Patuxent  
2 Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL), designated by the Director of  
3 PEARL;

4 (3) one representative of the University of Maryland Center for  
5 Environmental Science (UMCES), designated by the President of UMCES;

6 (4) one representative of St. Mary's College of Maryland, designated by the  
7 President of St. Mary's College of Maryland;

8 (5) one representative of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore,  
9 designated by the President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and

10 (6) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Natural  
11 Resources:

12 (i) at least one resource assessment statistician; and

13 (ii) at least one technical expert on coastal fisheries.

14 (c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall designate the chair of the Task  
15 Force.

16 (d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study methods for improving the accuracy of catch and effort estimates  
23 in recreational fisheries;

24 (2) develop a multiyear plan for increasing the frequency of State and  
25 regional recreational fisheries surveys that are conducted in a manner that is equitable,  
26 inclusive, and statistically valid to all participants, such as online surveys, surveys mailed  
27 to a physical address, and telephone surveys;

28 (3) study methods for improving surveying participants who are not  
29 frequently surveyed under current methods, including:

30 (i) anglers fishing from a private boat on private access points;

- 1 (ii) shore-based anglers; and
- 2 (iii) anglers for whom English is a second language;
- 3 (4) develop a multiyear outreach plan for increasing participation in public
- 4 and private volunteer angler data capture systems utilized by fisheries managers; and
- 5 (5) study additional information that may be collected in recreational
- 6 surveys to improve fisheries management data, knowledge, or models, such as:
  - 7 (i) fish length;
  - 8 (ii) fish disposition; and
  - 9 (iii) biological data.
- 10 (g) On or before December 1, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and
- 11 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
- 12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
 14 1, 2022. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and 1 month and,  
 15 at the end of June 30, 2027, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the  
 16 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. Section 2 of this  
 17 Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30,  
 18 2023, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall  
 19 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

President of the Senate.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.