

HOUSE BILL 512

M2

4lr2738

By: ~~Delegate Boyce~~ **Delegates Boyce, Jacobs, and T. Morgan**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Fish and Fisheries – Reporting Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons licensed or regulated with respect to fish and
4 fisheries by the Department of Natural Resources to submit reports in accordance
5 with regulations adopted by the ~~Secretary of Natural Resources~~ Department; and
6 generally relating to fish and fisheries reporting requirements.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Natural Resources

9 Section 4–206

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Natural Resources

14 Section 4–604(b) and 4–745(a)(1)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Natural Resources

19 Section 4–604(i) and 4–745(f)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 4–206.

5 (a) (1) The Department shall audit the books of any person who packs or deals
6 in fish resources within the jurisdiction of the Department including anyone who catches
7 and ships directly to market.

8 (2) The Department audit shall be conducted to determine the quantity of
9 resources caught and any other data needed for reporting and accounting to State officials.

10 (b) (1) Every person engaged in the business of packing or dealing in any fish
11 resource within the Department's jurisdiction shall keep accurate books, statements, and
12 accounts showing every detail of the business.

13 (2) Every book, statement, and account shall be open for the Department
14 to inspect at reasonable hours.

15 (3) Every person engaged in the business of packing or dealing in any fish
16 resource within the Department's jurisdiction shall [make] **SUBMIT** any report the
17 Department requires [on forms the Department prescribes] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
18 **REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ DEPARTMENT.**

19 (c) Every person the Department licenses to catch the fish resource shall [make]
20 **SUBMIT** any report the Department requires [on forms the Department provides] **IN**
21 **ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ DEPARTMENT.**

22 (d) (1) An officer or employee of any department or unit of the Executive
23 Branch of State government may not divulge or use in any manner information contained
24 in any report submitted pursuant to the provisions of this section that would reveal the
25 income of any person submitting the report.

26 (2) This section does not prohibit the publication of statistics classified to
27 prevent the identification of particular reports and items of them or prohibit inspection of
28 reports and records by any official or employee of the Executive Branch having a proper
29 interest in them.

30 4–604.

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

1 **(I) EVERY PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT ANY**
2 **REPORT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT**
3 **REGULATIONS.**

4 4-745.

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

11 **(F) EVERY PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT ANY**
12 **REPORT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT**
13 **REGULATIONS.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.