

# SENATE BILL 258

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(PRE-FILED)

5lr0357  
CF HB 40

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By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: October 12, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the fees for resident consolidated senior sport fishing licenses,  
4 angler’s licenses, and trout stamps; repealing the exemption from the requirement  
5 to obtain a trout stamp under certain circumstances for a holder of a resident  
6 consolidated senior sport fishing license; and generally relating to fishing licenses  
7 and stamps.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 4–216, 4–604, and 4–614  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 4–216.

17 (a) The Department shall establish a resident consolidated senior sport fishing  
18 license, to be issued to residents of Maryland beginning in the calendar year in which they  
19 attain the age of 65.

20 (b) **(1)** The resident consolidated senior sport fishing license may be obtained  
21 from the Department or from any authorized agent of the Department.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)    The annual fee for the license is [~~\$5~~] **\$12**.

2           (3)    As compensation, an agent shall retain 50 cents for each license issued.

3           (c)    A resident consolidated senior sport fishing license shall be valid for 1 year  
4 following the date of issuance.

5           (d)    A holder of a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license may:

6                (1)    Engage in angling on the nontidal waters of the State without holding  
7 an angler's license under § 4-604 of this title; **AND**

8                (2)    [Engage in angling for trout on the nontidal waters of the State without  
9 holding a trout stamp under § 4-614 of this title; and

10               (3)]   Fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries or in the State  
11 waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries without  
12 holding a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license under § 4-745 of this title.

13 4-604.

14           (a)    This section provides a fund to pay the expense of protecting and managing  
15 game and freshwater fish and preventing unauthorized persons from fishing or attempting  
16 to fish for any game and freshwater fish without first procuring an angler's license.

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

20           (c)    An angler's license is not required of the following:

21                (1)    The owner or tenant of land bordering on nontidal water, his spouse  
22 and children, or the spouse of any child who resides on the land with the owner or tenant  
23 when he fishes in nontidal water adjoining his land;

24                (2)    Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States, while on  
25 leave in the State, during the resident's leave period, if, while angling, the resident  
26 possesses a copy of the resident's official leave order;

27                (3)    A person who fishes in nontidal waters of the State on free fishing days  
28 designated by the Secretary;

29                (4)    A person holding a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing  
30 license issued under § 4-216 of this title;

31                (5)    A person fishing in a free fishing area established under § 4-214(b)(2)  
32 of this title; or

1 (6) A person authorized by a disability exemption issued under § 4-217 of  
2 this title.

3 (d) A person who wishes to obtain an angler’s license shall complete and submit  
4 an application to the Department or to any person designated by the Department to issue  
5 an angler’s license.

6 (e) (1) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

7 (i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;  
8 and

9 (ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the  
10 Department on the application.

11 (2) The Department shall require an applicant for a license under this  
12 section to provide the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security number, if the  
13 applicant has a Social Security number.

14 (f) (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the following annual license  
15 fees shall apply:

16 (i) Resident ..... ~~[\$20.50]~~ **\$32**

17 (ii) Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term license  
18 valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issuance ..... ~~[\$7.50]~~ **\$16**

19 (iii) Resident and nonresident blind persons ..... No fee

20 (iv) Complimentary license ..... No fee

21 (2) For a nonresident:

22 (i) The fee for an annual angler’s license is the greater of:

23 1. ~~[\$30.50]~~ **\$55**; or

24 2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
25 nonresident’s home state for a similar license; and

26 (ii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from  
27 the date of issuance is the greater of:

28 1. ~~[\$7.50]~~ **\$45**; or

1                                 2.       A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
2 nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or  
3 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

4                                 (iii)   The fee for a short-term license valid for 3 consecutive days from  
5 the date of issuance is the greater of:

6                                 1.       **[\$5] \$35;** or

7                                 2.       A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the  
8 nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or  
9 the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

10                                (3)     The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted  
11 angler's licenses and trout stamps to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple  
12 Heart Award.

13                                (4)   (i)     All fees collected by the Department under this section may only  
14 be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

15                                (ii)    The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts  
16 collected and the expenditures under this section.

17                                (g)     A person designated to sell an angler's license shall issue the license and  
18 collect the fee prescribed in subsection (f) of this section. The collected money shall be  
19 transmitted to the Department as prescribed by the Department. As compensation, the  
20 agent shall retain \$1 for each license issued.

21                                (h)   (1)     Every angler's license shall be valid for 1 year following the date of  
22 issuance.

23                                (2)     The license may not be transferred to another person, nor used or  
24 presented by any person other than the person to whom it was issued.

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

27 4-614.

28                                (a)   (1)     The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas  
29 where a trout stamp is required.

30                                (2)     Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may  
31 not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless  
32 the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license.

33                                (3)     A trout stamp is not required of the following:

1 (i) [A holder of a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing  
2 license issued under § 4-216 of this title;

3 (ii) A holder of a lifetime complimentary angler’s license issued  
4 under § 4-607(a)(2) or (3) of this subtitle;

5 [(iii)] (II) A person authorized by a disability exemption issued  
6 under § 4-217 of this title;

7 [(iv)] (III) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United  
8 States while on leave in the State, during the resident’s leave period, if, while angling, the  
9 resident possesses a copy of the resident’s official leave order; or

10 [(v)] (IV) A person under 16 years of age.

11 (4) The stamp may be obtained from the Department or an authorized  
12 agent of the Department.

13 (b) A person is not required to have a trout stamp to possess trout taken from:

14 (1) Any privately owned lake or pond that is stocked with trout artificially  
15 propagated by commercial hatcheries or purchased from persons licensed to sell fish; or

16 (2) Any fee fishing lake or pond operated under § 4-11A-20 of this title.

17 (c) The following annual trout stamp fees shall apply:

18 (1) Resident.....[\$5] **\$20**

19 (2) Nonresident.....[\$10] **\$30**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
21 1, 2025.