



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 142 – Recreational License Donation Program and Healing and Fishing Fund - Revisions

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 142. This bill will give individuals using the department's electronic licensing system an opportunity to make a voluntary monetary donation to the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund. This bill changes the current management of the fund to that of the Chesapeake Bay Trust rather than the Secretary of Natural Resources. The bill also expands the use of the fund to authorized eligible sponsor organizations that provide opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, and other veterans.

The department welcomes the opportunity this legislation provides to its partner, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, as they continue this enhanced donation program, funded through a new check-off box on the department's electronic licensing system. The department is pleased to know that the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund, under the Chesapeake Bay Trust, will have greater prospects in providing complimentary fishing and hunting licenses, recreational outdoor activities including therapeutic activities, and workforce training to Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, and other veterans.

The current balance of the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund is \$372.97. There have been no program participants to date.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding Senate Bill 142.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Contact: James W. McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
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