

**SenatorBailey\_FAV\_SB10.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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January 25, 2023

**Senate Bill 10 – Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 10 – Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance. This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to make available and issue all licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or certificates authorized by the Natural Resources Article in a digital or electronic format.

As I am sure you are aware, important documents are increasingly available in both electronic and physical formats, empowering our citizens to choose the method that they prefer. Our State's laws and policies should reflect this fact. This legislation would ensure that Marylanders who choose to fish, hunt, or engage in other activities requiring a license, permit, or other document from DNR are able to carry and display that document in the manner of their choosing.

Some Marylanders who are very active in hunting and fishing need to hold numerous licenses, permits, and stamps to engage in all of the activities for which they are authorized. This bill would permit these individuals to have these documents on their phone rather than carrying around all of these physical licenses. While legislation passed two years ago gave this option to the holders of some DNR licenses and stamps, the law as currently structured leaves it to the General Assembly to pass legislation authorizing any specific additional licenses to be issued electronically. I believe that it is time for DNR to provide this option for all licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates.

It is important to note that this legislation would not eliminate paper licenses. This bill would give Marylanders the choice of how they want to carry these documents. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey

**SB0010\_DNR-SWA\_EEE\_1-25-23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amanda Wilson

Position: FWA



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Acting Secretary

January 25, 2023

**BILL NUMBER: SB 10 – First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

DNR currently electronically issues and accepts its recreational fishing and hunting licenses, and commercial fishing licenses. However, there are certain issuances that must be physically affixed and displayed so as to be visible from a certain distance that cannot otherwise be issued electronically. Though these items may be purchased electronically, they are unable to be issued electronically.

The Department-issued vessel certificate of number registration decal and cards are unable to be issued electronically until a change is made to federal law and regulation. Once these changes can be made and approved, the United States Coast Guard will have the statutory authority to allow it on the State level.

Currently, several Units within DNR issue permits, registrations, and certificates outside of the COMPASS licensing system. DNR is working to meet the requirements of this bill in relation to these items in DNR’s development of a modernized licensing system.

The amendments offered would exempt specific DNR-issued licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and/or certificates from the requirement that they be issued electronically that are otherwise required to be physically affixed and displayed; as well as offering uncodified language expressing intent to have the Department electronically issue any federally restricted licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates once those federal restrictions are lifted.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over the last five years, the Department of Natural Resources has made major improvements in the electronic issuance and allowance of licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates. The Department has also made changes to allow most applications for such products to be submitted electronically.

At this time, the Department issues over 90 licenses, stamps, permits, registrations and certificates.

The Department has been working on a major information technology modernization project that would modify the existing online licensing system to be able to incorporate additional licenses, permits, registrations, and certificates in a manner that meets the bill’s requirements, and is hopeful to be able to implement that system update in the near future.

**BILL EXPLANATION**

This bill, as introduced, would require the Department of Natural Resources to make available all licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates in a digital or electronic format.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)  
[emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov](mailto:emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov) ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)

BY:

(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 10  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, strike “all” and substitute “certain”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 19, after “format” insert “EXCEPT:”

- (1) A CHARTER BOAT LICENSE UNDER § 4-745(D)(1) OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (2) A SPECIAL CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE UNDER § 4-745(D)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (3) A CERTIFICATE OF BOAT NUMBER UNDER § 8-712(D) OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (4) A HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER UNDER § 8-711 OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (5) A VESSEL USE STICKER UNDER § 8-712.1(D) OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (6) A VESSEL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE UNDER § 8-715 OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (7) A HISTORICAL WATERCRAFT IDENTIFICATION PLAQUE UNDER § 8-737(C) OF THIS ARTICLE;
- (8) AN ORV REGISTRATION STICKER UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- (9) A RECREATIONAL CRABBING BOATING DECAL UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- (10) A CRABBING CHARTER DECAL UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(11) A CONTROLLED WATER SKI STICKER UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(12) A DEEP CREEK LAKE BUFFER STRIP USE PERMIT UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(13) A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT STICKER UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.”.

On page 1, in line 20, after “paragraph”, strike “(2)” and substitute “(A)(1) THROUGH (A)(13)”.

On page 2, strike beginning with “An” in line 3 down through “article” in line 4 and substitute “NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL IS STILL REQUIRED TO ATTACH, AFFIX, OR DISPLAY NUMBERS, STICKERS, OR DECALS ASSOCIATED WITH A LICENSE, STAMP, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE ON A VEHICLE, VESSEL, DOCK, OR GEAR AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE OR A REGULATION ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT”.

### AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, after line 4, insert “SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that certain licenses, stamps, permits, registrations or certificates cannot be issued by the Department of Natural Resources in a digital or electronic format because of federal restrictions, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Natural Resources issue such documents in a digital or electronic format whenever the federal government eliminates those restrictions.”; and in line 5, strike “2” and substitute “3”.

**SB 10\_CBF\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FWA



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education

## Senate Bill 10

Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance

Date: January 25, 2023

Position: Support with Amendment

To: Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee

From: Allison Colden, Sr. Fisheries Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB 10 which would expand the types of licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) available in digital format.

We understand and support the intent of the legislation to allow boaters, fishers, hunters, and others recreating and utilizing Maryland's natural resources to comply with requirements to carry the appropriate license, registration or permit at the time of the permitted activity by presenting a digital license. This action also aligns with goals to modernize data collection in commercial and recreational fisheries.

However, the bill as written removes *all* requirements throughout the Natural Resources Article to physically carry or display a Department of Natural Resources-issued license, stamp, or registration. This presents potential concerns with respect to natural resources law enforcement and accountability. For example, the bill would remove the requirement to display commercial fishing license numbers prominently on a commercial fishing vessel, hampering land-based law enforcement patrols, or the requirement to display boat registration numbers on recreational vessels, making tracing boat owners for lost or abandoned vessels more difficult.

Such enforcement issues could likely be addressed through amendments which clarify and refine the types of licenses and activities for which a digital license, permit, or registration is most appropriate. We are happy to work with the Committee, the Department, and others to craft such amendments if desired.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report WITH AMENDMENTS on SB 10.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.