



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.

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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”.