

230215-HB0465-Crab-license-expemption-kids.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: FAV

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032

February 15, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB0465-Natural Resources-Recreational Crabbing License-Exemption

Dear Delegates,

We support HB 465 and respectfully request that you vote for it.

Requiring a license for children to crab recreationally just imposes restrictions on our youth's ability to be creative, have fun outdoors and experience the natural wonders of the Chesapeake Bay.

Please vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers

CalvertCounty_FAV_HB0465.pdf

Uploaded by: John Norris

Position: FAV



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0465 – Natural Resources - Recreational Crabbing License - Exemption

Chairman Barve:

The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County writes to **SUPPORT HB0465** and respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT**. We support exempting children under the age of 16 years from the requirement to obtain a recreational crabbing license.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland

cc: The Honorable Senator Jack Bailey

HB0465_DNR_SWA_E&T_2-17-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Widman

Position: FWA



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

February 17, 2023

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 465 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources – Natural Resources - Recreational Crabbing License - Exemption

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The bill would add a specific exemption from recreational crabbing licenses for individuals under the age of 16. These individuals are currently able to harvest without a license up to two dozen male hard crabs.

The Department recommends amended language to clarify the intent of the exemptions so as not to conflict with any other current restrictions within the crab fishery. By amending the text to specify the use of collapsible traps and net rings by this user group, while still requiring the user group to comply with regulations, there is little concern of additional harvest pressure or management conflict. The Department’s suggested amendments were accepted on the cross-filed bill, Senate Bill 102.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under current law and regulation, any individual (regardless of age) can harvest up to two dozen male blue crabs with handlines or dip nets without obtaining a recreational crabbing license. Recreational licensed exempted groups have a lower harvest limit because of the inability of fisheries managers to track harvest pressure from unlicensed individuals.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill, as introduced, provides a license exemption for individuals under the age of 16 to harvest blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

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