

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

March 29, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Barve 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 most 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 as many licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates as possible.

The bill includes provisions added at the request of DNR to ensure that it does not cover licenses which must be affixed to a boat or that cannot be issued electronically under Federal law. The bill is effective July 1, 2024 to allow the Department time to implement these changes in conjunction with their current information technology modernization project. With these provisions, the bill does not have any fiscal impact and can be implemented with existing resources.

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