



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 29, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 10 – Third Reader

SHORT TITLE: Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

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 Department supports the bill as amended as it exempts 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 offers 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 would require the Department of Natural Resources to make available certain licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates in a digital or electronic format.

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