

**JAY A. JACOBS**  
*Legislative District 36*  
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and  
Queen Anne's Counties

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Environment and Transportation  
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Motor Vehicle and Transportation

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Local Government & Bicounty Agencies

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Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 309  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3449 · 301-858-3449  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3449  
Fax: 410-841-3093 · 301-858-3093  
Jay.Jacobs@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## HB 386 Natural Resources-Blue and Flathead Catfish Trotline License-Establishment

Chairman Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Today I am presenting HB386 titled Natural Resources -Blue and Flathead Catfish Trotline License-Establishment. This is an emergency bill to establish the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license in which the prior legislation SB7 of 2019 did sunset on June 30, 2022.

These catfish are considered invasive species and according to the Department of Natural Resources website, the department asks that all fishermen remove and kill any blue and flathead catfish they catch. Catch and release of these fish is discouraged, as they are invasive top predators and pose a serious long-term threat to our native species.

Emergency bill HB386 will continue to provide another tool in tool box to help control the proliferation of these dangerous invasive species that are causing the eco system to be out of balance in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

I ask for your favorable vote for this Emergency legislation.