

HOUSE BILL 438

M2

4lr0752
CF SB 152

By: **Delegates Hornberger and D. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Fee Exemptions – Residents Eligible for**
3 **Assistance Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting residents who are eligible for certain assistance programs
5 from the annual fee for angler's licenses, trout stamps, and Chesapeake Bay and
6 coastal sport fishing licenses; and generally relating to fees for fishing licenses and
7 stamps.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–604(b) and (f), 4–614(c), and 4–745(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Natural Resources
15 Section 4–604(e)(1) and 4–614(a)(1) and (2)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Natural Resources**

21 4–604.

22 (b) **(1)** Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish
23 in the nontidal waters of the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of the State only during the open season.

(e) (1) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

(i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department; and

(ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the Department on the application.

(f) (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the following annual license fees shall apply:

(i) Resident \$20.50

(ii) Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issuance \$7.50

(iii) Resident and nonresident blind persons No fee

(iv) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

(v) Complimentary license No fee

(2) For a nonresident:

(i) The fee for an annual angler's license is the greater of:

1. \$30.50; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license; and

(ii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from the date of issuance is the greater of:

1. \$7.50; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

(iii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 3 consecutive days from the date of issuance is the greater of:

1. \$5; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

(3) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted angler's licenses and trout stamps to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart Award.

(4) (i) All fees collected by the Department under this section may only be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

(ii) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts collected and the expenditures under this section.

4-614.

(a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas where a trout stamp is required.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license.

(c) The following annual trout stamp fees shall apply:

(1) Resident..... \$5

(2) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

(3) Nonresident..... \$10

4-745.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the license or registration.

(2) The license may be obtained from the Department or from any authorized agent of the Department.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, the following annual license fees shall apply:

(i) Resident.....\$15

(ii) Short-term resident license valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issue.....\$6

(iii) For a short-term nonresident license valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issue.....\$12

(iv) Nonresident.....\$22.50

(v) Resident and nonresident blind persons.....No fee

(vi) **RESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID.....NO FEE**

(VII) Complimentary license under subsection (e) of this section.....No fee

(4) The Department shall implement a program to provide discounted Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses to Maryland residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart Award.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (d)(1) of this section, every Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license and registration shall be valid for 1 year following the date of issuance.

(6) An applicant for a license issued under this section:

(i) Shall provide all the information requested by the Department;
and

(ii) May not willfully make a false statement or representation to the Department on the application.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.