

STATE OF MARYLAND

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Shari T. Wilson, Secretary**

**BILL NO: SB 987**

**COMMITTEE: EHE**

**POSITION: Support with Amendments**

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**TITLE:** Natural Resources – Conservation Law Enforcement  
Act of 2010

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

The bill clarifies and strengthens the authority and resources of the Department of Natural Resources Police (NRP) to better enforce State conservation laws. Specifically, the bill establishes in statute that the NRP has statewide authority to enforce conservation, boating, and criminal laws as well as provides maritime and rural search and rescue services, provides public education in hunting, boating, and water safety, provides primary law enforcement services for State parks, State forests, wildlife management areas, and public lands owned and managed by DNR, and serves as the lead agency for maritime homeland security on State waterways.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE: Support with Amendments**

In addition to protecting Maryland's Natural Resources and Conservation Laws, this Bill provides an opportunity to re-emphasize the role of the NRP in protecting public health related to requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

Currently, the role of the NRP to enforce MDE restricted waters is very clear. However, the role of NRP to enforce harvest restrictions based on naturally occurring pathogens, such as *Vibrio* bacteria, is not clearly stated in Maryland (DNR's) Annotated Code. Since waters are not restricted due to naturally occurring pathogens this Bill provides an avenue to clearly state that harvest restrictions may be needed, not because of pollution or

restricted waters, but for time temperature requirements to protect public health.

Maryland was recently found in non-compliance by FDA with its Vibrio Control plan specifically because time temperature controls, as stated in Maryland's Vibrio Control Plan, were not enforced. This issue must be addressed to protect Maryland's emerging shellfish aquaculture and shellfish industry, and to be found in compliance by FDA. The amendments the Department is offering would address these issues.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
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BY: The Maryland Department of the Environment

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 987  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 4 in line 25 after “**BOATING,**” insert “**SEAFOOD SAFETY,**”

On page 5 in line 8 after “resource,” insert “**SEAFOOD SAFETY,**”

On page 5 in line 26 after “resources” insert “**OR AQUACULTURE  
PRODUCT**”