

Chapter 286

(House Bill 545)

AN ACT concerning

**Natural Resources – Licenses, ~~Permits, Registrations, and Certificates~~ – Digital
or Electronic Format and Stamps – Revisions**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to make available and, on request, issue certain licenses, ~~permits, registrations, and certificates~~ and stamps in a digital or electronic format; establishing that an individual may satisfy certain requirements to possess or display a license, ~~permit, registration, or certificate~~ or stamp by possessing or displaying the document in a certain digital or electronic format subject to a certain exception; requiring a certain license to be permanently affixed to a boat; requiring the Department to design certain digital or electronic documents in a certain manner prohibiting certain applicants from willfully making a certain false statement or representation; repealing certain provisions of law requiring certain licensees to sign a license in a certain manner at a certain time; making a stylistic change; and generally relating to licenses, ~~permits, registrations, and certificates~~ and stamps issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 1–403(a), (b), (c), and (g) and 4–745(d)(2)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 1–403.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 4–604(e) and (h) and 4–745(a)(6)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 10–301(j)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

1–403.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the Department may develop and implement an electronic system for the sale and issuance of licenses, permits, and registrations and the recording and releasing of security interests.

(b) The electronic system may include provisions for:

(1) Recording titling and registration data;

(2) Recording and releasing liens without the issuance of a security interest filing; and

(3) Recording information relating to an application for a license, permit, or registration.

(c) The Department shall develop the electronic system consistent with the statewide information technology master plan developed under Title 3A, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(g) The Department may adopt regulations to:

(1) Implement the electronic system authorized under this section; and

(2) Determine the appropriate fee levels that may be charged by a vendor and by the Department for the electronic transmission service.

1–403.1.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE AND, ON REQUEST, ISSUE ANY ~~LICENSE, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE~~ LICENSE OR STAMP AUTHORIZED UNDER §§ 4–604, 4–614, 4–745, OR 10–301(G) OF THIS ARTICLE IN A DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

(B) ~~(1)~~ ~~AN~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY SATISFY ANY REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO POSSESS OR DISPLAY A ~~LICENSE, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE~~ LICENSE OR STAMP ISSUED UNDER §§ 4–604, 4–614, 4–745, OR 10–301(G) OF THIS ARTICLE BY POSSESSING OR DISPLAYING THE DOCUMENT IN A DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC FORMAT AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) AN ANNUAL SPECIAL CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE SHALL BE PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO A BOAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-745(D)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE.

~~**(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN THE DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS THE DOCUMENT HOLDER TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF THE DEVICE ON WHICH THE DOCUMENT IS ACCESSED DURING VERIFICATION.**~~

4-604.

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

(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.

(2) The Department shall require an applicant for a license under this section to provide the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security number, if the applicant has a Social Security number.

(h) (1) Every angler’s license shall be valid for 1 year following the date of issuance.

(2) [The licensee shall electronically or physically sign the license at the time of purchase.

(3) The license may not be transferred to another person, nor used or presented by any person other than the person to whom it was issued.

4-745.

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

(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.

(d) (2) (i) The Department may provide by regulation for issuance of an annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, which when permanently

affixed to a boat registered in any state shall authorize any person on the boat to 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, except that such a license may not be used on a boat that has been hired to take such persons fishing.

(ii) The annual fee for this special license shall be \$50.

(iii) If a boat owner purchases the special license under this paragraph, the boat owner may fish anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries or the State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries, whether the boat owner is fishing in the owner's boat, in another person's boat, on land, or elsewhere. The Department shall issue a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license to the boat owner who purchases a special license under this paragraph. If a boat to which the special license is affixed has more than one owner, then only the individual applicant who signs the application for the special license shall be entitled to a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license under this paragraph.

10-301.

(j) [The licensee shall electronically or physically sign the hunting license at the time the licensee obtains the hunting license. It] A HUNTING LICENSE may not be transferred to any other person.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.