

HOUSE BILL 478

M3, E4

3lr2593
CF SB 336

By: **Delegates D. Jones, Bagnall, Bartlett, Howard, Kipke, and Rogers**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS)
4 Workgroup to study issues and factors regarding the feasibility of establishing a
5 Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public of certain
6 waterway emergencies; and generally relating to the Waterway Incident Notification
7 System (WINS) Workgroup.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup.

11 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

12 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
13 the Senate;

14 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House;

16 (3) the Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Chair of the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, or the Chair's designee;

18 (5) the Superintendent of the Natural Resources Police, or the
19 Superintendent's designee;

20 (6) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;
21 and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) the following representatives:

2 (i) one representative from the Dorchester County Emergency
3 Management Division, appointed by the Director of the Dorchester County Department of
4 Emergency Services;

5 (ii) one representative from the Anne Arundel County Office of
6 Emergency Management, appointed by the Director of the Anne Arundel County Office of
7 Emergency Management; and

8 (iii) one representative from the St. Mary's County Emergency
9 Management Division, appointed by the Director of the St. Mary's County Department of
10 Emergency Services.

11 (c) The Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, shall
12 designate the chair of the Workgroup.

13 (d) The Maryland Department of Emergency Management shall provide staff for
14 the Workgroup.

15 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (f) The Workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding:

20 (1) the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System
21 to notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen,
22 of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm,
23 emergency marine events, or marine hazards; and

24 (2) potential partnerships between the State, the U.S. Coast Guard, the
25 U.S. Navy, and nearby states to improve notifications to members of the public, including
26 recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of waterway emergencies involving a
27 person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine
28 hazards.

29 (g) On or before December 31, 2023, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
30 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
31 Government Article, the General Assembly.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
33 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June

1 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.