

Chapter 558

(Senate Bill 10)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Natural Resources – Documents – Digital or Electronic Issuance

FOR the purpose of expanding the requirement that the Department of Natural Resources make available and issue certain licenses and stamps in a digital or electronic format ~~to apply to all licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, and certificates issued by the Department;~~ and generally relating to the digital or electronic issuance of documents by the Department of Natural Resources.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 1–403.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

1–403.1.

(a) **(1) ~~The~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Department shall make available and, on request, issue any license [or], stamp, **PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE** authorized under [§§ 4–604, 4–614, 4–745, or 10–301(g) of] this article in a digital or electronic format.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, STAMPS, PERMITS, REGISTRATIONS, OR CERTIFICATES IN A DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC FORMAT:

(I) A CHARTER BOAT LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 4–745(D)(1) OF THIS ARTICLE;

(II) A SPECIAL CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 4–745(D)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE;

(III) A CERTIFICATE OF BOAT NUMBER ISSUED UNDER § 8–712(D) OF THIS ARTICLE;

(IV) A HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ISSUED UNDER § 8-711 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(V) A VESSEL STICKER ISSUED UNDER § 8-712.1(D) OF THIS ARTICLE;

(VI) A VESSEL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ISSUED UNDER § 8-715 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(VII) A HISTORICAL WATERCRAFT IDENTIFICATION PLAQUE ISSUED UNDER § 8-737(C) OF THIS ARTICLE;

(VIII) AN ORV REGISTRATION STICKER ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS;

(IX) A RECREATIONAL CRABBING BOATING DECAL ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS;

(X) A CRABBING CHARTER DECAL ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS;

(XI) A CONTROLLED WATER SKI STICKER ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS;

(XII) A DEEP CREEK LAKE BUFFER STRIP USE PERMIT ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS; AND

(XIII) A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT STICKER ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

(b) (1) Except as provided under ~~paragraph (2)~~ **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this subsection, an individual may satisfy any requirement under this article to possess or display a license [or], stamp, **PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE** 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~~ **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A LICENSE, STAMP, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE LISTED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION.**

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL IS STILL REQUIRED TO ATTACH, AFFIX, OR DISPLAY NUMBERS,

STICKERS, OR DECALS ASSOCIATED WITH A LICENSE, STAMP, PERMIT, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATE ON A VEHICLE, VESSEL, DOCK, OR GEAR AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE OR DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if the Department of Natural Resources cannot issue certain licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or certificates in a digital or electronic format because of federal restrictions, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department shall issue those licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or certificates in a digital or electronic format whenever the federal government eliminates those restrictions.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2023~~ July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.