SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

M20lr2837

By: Senators Bailey, Ellis, and Patterson

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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Recognition of Maryland License Suspensions and Revocations by the Potomac **River Fisheries Commission**

- 4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to take action, 5 consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, to prohibit a person from 6 participating in a fishery under the Commission's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland 8 has been suspended or revoked.
- 9 WHEREAS, Maryland is vitally interested in conserving and improving the valuable 10 fishery resources of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The Potomac River Compact of 1958 grants jurisdiction over the 12 tidewater portion of the Potomac River and the authority to regulate commercial fisheries 13 therein to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission; and
 - WHEREAS, The regulations of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission do not currently prohibit a person whose license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish has been suspended or revoked in Maryland for violating the laws and regulations of the State from applying for or holding a license issued by the Commission to participate in a fishery in the Commission's jurisdiction; and
 - WHEREAS, Allowing a person whose license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish has been suspended or revoked in Maryland to continue to fish in the Potomac River undermines the punitive purpose of license suspensions and revocations and endangers the fisheries resources of the Potomac River; and
 - WHEREAS, In addition to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, Maryland and Virginia are both parties to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, under which each participating state has agreed to recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of a person whose license privileges have been suspended by another participating state and treat that suspension as if it had occurred in their state; now, therefore, be it



RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Potomac River Fisheries Commission take action, consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, to prohibit a person from participating in a fishery under the Commission's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland has been suspended or revoked; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to Mr. Phil L. Langley, Chairman of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box 9, Colonial Beach, VA 22443.