

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators Bailey, Ellis, and Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Recognition of Maryland License Suspensions and Revocations by the Potomac**
3 **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
7 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

14 WHEREAS, The regulations of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission do not
15 currently prohibit a person whose license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or
16 otherwise deal in fish has been suspended or revoked in Maryland for violating the laws
17 and regulations of the State from applying for or holding a license issued by the Commission
18 to participate in a fishery in the Commission's jurisdiction; and

19 WHEREAS, Allowing a person whose license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport,
20 export, or otherwise deal in fish has been suspended or revoked in Maryland to continue to
21 fish in the Potomac River undermines the punitive purpose of license suspensions and
22 revocations and endangers the fisheries resources of the Potomac River; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, Maryland and
24 Virginia are both parties to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, under which each
25 participating state has agreed to recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of a
26 person whose license privileges have been suspended by another participating state and
27 treat that suspension as if it had occurred in their state; now, therefore, be it



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

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