

**HB1599/773327/1**

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1599  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**and Sample–Hughes**” and substitute “**Sample–Hughes, Allen, Behler, Boyce, Healey, Holmes, Lewis, J. Long, T. Morgan, Odom, Stein, and Ziegler**”; strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “**Chesapeake Bay – Enhancement Program and Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund – Established**”; in line 5, strike “on the State’s oyster population”; in the same line, after “projects” insert “on the State’s oyster population”; in the same line, after the semicolon insert “establishing the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to certain commercial watermen and small businesses; prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from making certain approvals for tidal fish licenses or authorizations of certain borrowers;”; in line 6, after “Program” insert “and Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund”; and after line 11, insert:

“BY adding to

Article - Economic Development

Section 10–526.1 and 10–526.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with “**ON**” in line 21 on page 1 down through “**BALTIMORE**” in line 9 on page 2 and substitute “**OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ON THE STATE’S OYSTER POPULATION**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, strike beginning with “**FOR**” in line 10 down through “**ARTICLE**” in line 13 and substitute “**THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE FUNDING UNDER THE**

PROGRAM TO SUPPORT OYSTER PROPAGATION AND REPLENISHMENT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT"; and after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Economic Development

10-526.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND.

(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOANS, TO COMMERCIAL WATERMEN AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.

(D) THE CORPORATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

(2) LOAN PRINCIPAL REPAYMENTS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION;

(3) MONEY MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; AND

(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

**(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

- (1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOANS; AND**
- (2) THE COSTS OF THE CORPORATION TO ADMINISTER THIS SECTION.**

**(G) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOANS, PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CORPORATION SHALL DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING:**

- (1) THE APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS;**
- (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA;**
- (3) THE AMOUNT OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOANS, FOR EACH APPLICANT;**
- (4) THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOANS;**
- (5) THE AMOUNT OF LOAN FORGIVENESS THAT THE CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE FOR LOAN REPAYMENT PERFORMANCE; AND**
- (6) ANY OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

**10-526.2.**

- (A) (1) IF A BORROWER WHO HOLDS A TIDAL FISH LICENSE UNDER § 4-701 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE IS DELINQUENT IN THE REPAYMENT OF A LOAN UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE CORPORATION SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.**

(2) IF A BORROWER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BECOMES COMPLIANT WITH THE REPAYMENT OF A LOAN UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE CORPORATION SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING § 4-701 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE, AFTER RECEIVING A NOTIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION AND UNTIL RECEIVING A NOTIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MAY NOT APPROVE A TRANSFER OF THE TIDAL FISH LICENSE OR AUTHORIZATION.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation may transfer up to \$337,500 each from the Oyster Shucking House Loan Program and the Watermen's Microloan Program to the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund established under Section 2 of this Act to provide additional financial assistance to commercial watermen and small businesses in the seafood industry; and

(2) the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation shall repay any funds transferred from the Oyster Shucking House Loan Program or the Watermen's Microloan Program to the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund established under Section 2 of this Act on or before June 30, 2028.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.”;

in line 14, strike “2.” and substitute “5.”; and in the same line, after “That” insert “, except as provided in Section 4 of this Act.”.