

without having to pay the excise tax. Under current law, nonresidents have 30 days to stay in the State before they must pay the tax. The ultimate goal is to enable non-Marylanders to stay in the State and spend their dollars in Maryland for more than 30 days.

While the goals of this legislation are laudable, there is a technical error in the bill that prevents me from signing it. House Bill 1001 fails to define what a business is when it comes to chartering, renting, or leasing a boat. Without this definition, the \$25.9 million collected in fiscal 2002 from the excise tax could be in jeopardy. For example, any person who buys a boat would be able to say he or she is going to charter, rent, or lease it and be exempt from paying the excise tax. This could result in the loss of millions of dollars in revenue to the State.

I will work with the sponsor during the interim to develop legislation to achieve the goal of encouraging non-Marylanders to stay in our State and enjoy our multitude of tourist attractions.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1001.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

### House Bill No. 1001

AN ACT concerning

#### Natural Resources - State Boat Act - ~~Exemptions from Excise Tax~~

FOR the purpose of ~~exempting a person from paying a certain excise tax for a transfer to a business of a certain vessel for certain purposes; exempting a person from paying a certain excise tax on a certain vessel that is purchased in the State, subject to certain use limitations, and the displaying of a certain sticker~~ exempting certain transfers from the vessel excise tax; providing that certain vessels in use for a certain amount of time are exempt from the tax; providing that the Department of Natural Resources may issue a certificate of number to a vessel under certain conditions; providing for the issuance of a title to certain vessels under certain conditions; and generally relating to exemptions from vessel excise taxes.

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section ~~8-716(e)~~ 8-715(c) and 8-716(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~with~~ without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section ~~8-716(e)~~ 8-716(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland