

The state Senate has passed a Republican bill that would make it easier for people to build piers and docks on state waters. Right now, the Department of Natural Resources issues either general or individual permits authorizing such an activity. General permits apply statewide to anyone engaging in the activity the permit allows. Individual permits are geared to specific projects in specific areas. The bill would grant the agency the authority to issue general permits for any activity that currently requires an individual permit. The Senate passed the measure 20-13 with no debate. It goes next to the state Assembly.