

WHEREAS, This consensus was reached between the State and the seven Patuxent River counties to substantially reduce the flow of phosphorus and nitrogen from sewage treatment plants to the Patuxent River; and

WHEREAS, The nutrient control policy under the Patuxent Charette Agreement provided that all facilities discharging over 500,000 gallons a day of wastewater must remove phosphorus to 1.0 mg/l of wastewater and plan for a possible 0.3 mg/l phosphorus limit; and

WHEREAS, The nutrient control policy under the Patuxent Charette Agreement provided that all facilities plan for nitrogen removal to a limit of no more than 3.0 mg/l; and

WHEREAS, After 25 years, several of the sewage treatment plants covered by the policy are not meeting the standards envisioned by the Patuxent Charette Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The living resources of the Patuxent River have yet to be restored due in part to the failure to meet the standards of the Patuxent Charette Agreement; and

WHEREAS, There is new technology, called "enhanced nutrient removal," that can reduce phosphorus and nitrogen from sewage treatment plants to levels of 0.3 mg/l of phosphorus and 3.0 mg/l of nitrogen; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the Bay Restoration Fund was created for the purpose of paying the costs of upgrading sewage treatment plants in the State to achieve "enhanced nutrient removal"; and

WHEREAS, The technology and funding now exist to make the restoration of the Patuxent River a priority; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Environment

4-301.

- (a) ~~In this subtitle, the following words have the meanings indicated.~~
- (b) ~~In this subtitle the word "Watershed" means the Patuxent River Watershed and the Severn River Watershed.~~
- (c) ~~The "Patuxent River Watershed" is the land and water area from which all water drains either directly or indirectly to the Patuxent River.~~
- (d) ~~The "Severn River Watershed" is the land and water area from which all water drains either directly or indirectly to the Severn River.~~

4-302.

~~(A) The General Assembly declares that the Patuxent River and the Severn River are a great natural asset and resource to the State and the counties through which they run. As a result of poorly treated effluent discharged from sewage disposal~~