

(House Joint Resolution No. 17)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Environmental Protection - Chesapeake Bay - Critical Areas

FOR the purpose of preserving the quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries by affirming criteria for local critical area program development adopted by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission.

WHEREAS, In 1984 the Governor and the General Assembly recognized that there is a critical and substantial State interest in restoring the quality and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, In response to this concern, the Governor proposed and the General Assembly approved a package of 34 initiatives designed to diminish urban and agricultural nonpoint source pollution, upgrade publicly owned sewage treatment plants, improve fishery management, reduce shoreline erosion, and foster more sensitive development along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, Among these initiatives was the establishment of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission to guide local jurisdictions in their development of a critical area protection program; and

WHEREAS, The Commission was directed to promulgate criteria for program development and approval which would achieve the following goals:

(1) Minimize adverse impacts on water quality that result from pollutants that are discharged from structures or conveyances or that have run off from surrounding lands;

(2) Conserve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat;

(3) Establish land use policies for development in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area which accommodate growth and also address the fact that, even if pollution is controlled, the number, movement, and activities of persons in that area can create adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, Prior to developing and adopting its criteria, the Commission held 16 public hearings throughout the State and met representatives from local governments, the agricultural, forestry, real estate, and environmental communities, as well as other concerned citizens; and