

## CHAPTER 441

(House Bill 620)

## AN ACT concerning

## Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries - Public Access

FOR the purpose of designating the Department of Natural Resources as the unit of State government that coordinates public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; requiring the Department to take certain actions to provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; providing that nothing in this Act may be construed to expand certain authority of the Department on a certain date concerning condemnation powers in certain areas of the State; providing for certain limitations on the acquisition of certain land in the State by eminent domain; and generally relating to providing public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

## BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 8-205  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, Under the authority of § 8-1816 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission has prepared a report to the Governor and the General Assembly that recommends State policy and goals for:

(1) The provision of public access along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

(2) The reforestation of land within the critical area and the preservation of forested land within the critical area; and

WHEREAS, Currently there is no existing policy that serves as a guide for the 3 departments, 6 agencies within those 3 departments, and 8 programs within those 6 agencies of State government that are involved with the provision of shorefront access for the public; and

WHEREAS, The Critical Area Commission recommends that the State carry out a goal to provide opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and