

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 8-1815
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1988 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources
Section ~~8-1817~~ 8-1815.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1988 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas was created in 1984 to meet with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission and to review the development and implementation of the criteria for program development in the areas of the State subject to the Critical Area Law; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 234 of the Acts of 1988 expanded the authority of the Joint Committee on the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas to include, among other things, a determination of whether the criteria need to be strengthened in any area to make the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Program more effective in the protection of the water quality and habitat of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, Instances of clearing or cutting of trees without reforestation have occurred along the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area; and

WHEREAS, Neither State nor local law currently allows a local jurisdiction or, when acting on a referral from the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission under § 8-1815 of the Natural Resources Article, the Attorney General to require a person who clears or cuts trees in the Critical Area to replant the trees; and

WHEREAS, This Act does not apply to any cutting or clearing of trees that is allowed under regulations adopted by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, including regulations entitled "Forest and Woodland Protection" and "Habitat Protection Areas in the Critical Area"; now, therefore,

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