

**Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

5-106.

(T) A PROSECUTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THE FISH AND FISHERIES PROVISIONS OF TITLE 4 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE OR THE WILDLIFE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE SHALL BE INSTITUTED WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER COMMISSION OF THE OFFENSE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved April 29, 1997.

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**CHAPTER 248**

**(House Bill 595)**

AN ACT concerning

**Chesapeake Bay Critical Area - Commercial Timber Harvest - Criteria for Buffer Overlap**

FOR the purpose of allowing certain timber harvesting within a certain distance of buffer areas that overlap with certain habitat protection areas; and generally relating to timber harvesting in the Critical Area.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources

Section 8-1808.7

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, State lawmakers in 1984 recognized the importance of fostering more sensitive development activity along the shoreline areas of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, from the standpoint of protecting and preserving water quality and natural habitats, with the adoption of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, This milestone policy imposed several development-related performance standards within the "Critical Area" aimed at helping achieve the inherent goals of the Act;

WHEREAS, One of the unintended restrictive provisions associated with the enabling Act and its accompanying criteria prohibited timber harvesting within the landward 50 feet of the 100-foot buffer area when it was determined that overlapping Habitat Protection Area (HPAs) existed;