

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(1996 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)~~

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

Article - Natural Resources

8-1801.

(a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) The Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries are natural resources of great significance to the State and the nation;

(2) The shoreline and adjacent lands constitute a valuable, fragile, and sensitive part of this estuarine system, where human activity can have a particularly immediate and adverse impact on water quality and natural habitats;

(3) The capacity of these shoreline and adjacent lands to withstand continuing demands without further degradation to water quality and natural habitats is limited;

(4) National studies have documented that the quality and productivity of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries have declined due to the cumulative effects of human activity that have caused increased levels of pollutants, nutrients, and toxics in the Bay System and declines in more protective land uses such as forestland and agricultural land in the Bay region;

(5) Those portions of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries within Maryland are particularly stressed by the continuing population growth and development activity concentrated in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan corridor AND ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST;

(6) The quality of life for the citizens of Maryland is enhanced through the restoration of the quality and productivity of the waters of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS, AND THEIR tributaries;

(7) The restoration of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries is dependent, in part, on minimizing further adverse impacts to the water quality and natural habitats of the shoreline and adjacent lands;

(8) The cumulative impact of current development is inimical to these purposes; and

(9) There is a critical and substantial State interest for the benefit of current and future generations in fostering more sensitive development activity in a consistent and uniform manner along shoreline areas of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries so as to minimize damage to water quality and natural habitats.