

[(7)](8) The restoration of the Chesapeake 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, PARTICULARLY IN THE BUFFER;

[(8)](9) The cumulative impact of current development AND OF EACH NEW DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY IN THE BUFFER is inimical to these purposes; and

[(9)](10) 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 and the Atlantic Coastal Bays and their tributaries so as to minimize damage to water quality and natural habitats.

(b) It is the purpose of the General Assembly in enacting this subtitle:

(1) To establish a Resource Protection Program for the Chesapeake and the Atlantic Coastal Bays and their tributaries by fostering more sensitive development activity for certain shoreline areas so as to minimize damage to water quality and natural habitats; and

(2) To implement the Resource Protection Program on a cooperative basis between the State and affected local governments, with local governments establishing and implementing their programs in a consistent and uniform manner subject to State criteria and oversight.

8-1802.

(a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Atlantic Coastal Bays" means the Assawoman, Isle of Wight, Sinepuxent, Newport, and Chincoteague Bays.

(3) "Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area" means the initial planning area identified under § 8-1807 of this subtitle.

(4) "BUFFER" MEANS AN EXISTING, NATURALLY VEGETATED AREA, OR AN AREA ESTABLISHED IN VEGETATION AND MANAGED TO PROTECT AQUATIC, WETLANDS, SHORELINE, AND TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS FROM MAN-MADE DISTURBANCES.

(5) "Chesapeake Bay Critical Area" means the initial planning area identified under § 8-1807 of this subtitle.

[(5)](6) "Commission" means the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays established in this subtitle.

[(6)](7) "Critical Area" means the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area.

[(7)](8) "Development" means any activity that materially affects the condition or use of dry land, land under water, or any structure.