

(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.

[(8)](9) "Growth allocation" means the number of acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area that a local jurisdiction may use to create new intensely developed areas and new limited development areas.

[(9)](10) "Includes" means includes or including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

[(10)](11) "Land classification" means the designation of land in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Commission as an intensely developed area or district, a limited development area or district, or a resource conservation area or district.