

(6) Those portions of the Chesapeake 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;

(7) 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 and the Atlantic Coastal Bays, and their tributaries;

(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;

(9) The cumulative impact of current development and of each new development activity in the buffer is inimical to these purposes, **AND IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT STATE LAW ~~BE SUFFICIENT TO~~ PROTECT IRREPLACEABLE STATE BUFFER RESOURCES FROM UNPERMITTED ACTIVITY;** and

(10) There is a critical and substantial State interest for the benefit of current and future generations in fostering more sensitive development [activity] **AND MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT** 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 **AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP**, [criteria] **CRITERIA**, and oversight.

8-1802.

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

(13) (I) **“INTENSELY DEVELOPED AREA” MEANS AN AREA OF AT LEAST 20 ACRES OR THE ENTIRE UPLAND PORTION OF THE CRITICAL AREA WITHIN A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, WHICHEVER IS LESS, WHERE:**