



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Policy for the Bay | www.chesbay.us

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania

VIRGINIA

(46-day Regular Session, January 8 – February 22, Reconvene Session April 2)

PASSED & SIGNED

SB 933 (Senator Stuart) / HB 1697 (Delegate Askew)

Establishing shrimp and horseshoe crab fisheries.

Allows the Marine Resources Commission to issue licenses or permits to any person to take or catch fish, shellfish, or marine organisms with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device within the three-mile limit of the Virginia Atlantic shoreline for the shrimp and horseshoe crab fisheries.

SB 1166 (Senator Salim) / HB 1941 (Delegate Seibold)

Invasive plant species; retail sales.

Requires, for the retail sale of certain invasive plant species for outdoor use, a retail establishment to post signage in proximity to each invasive plant signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate the format, size, and content of such signage and allows the Commissioner to issue violations for failure to comply.

SB 1169 (Senator Salim) / HB 1810 (Delegate Bloxom)

Encroachment on subaqueous beds; permitting requirements.

Increases the maximum total value of projects eligible for a permit to trespass upon or over or encroach upon a subaqueous bed belonging to the Commonwealth from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The bill requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to update the total project value every five years using the Consumer Price Index.

HB 2034 (Delegate Simonds)

Wetlands Policy Task Force.

Directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to establish a policy task force to evaluate existing policies regarding wetlands protection, restoration, creation, and mitigation in the Commonwealth and other states; recommend policy changes necessary to accelerate tidal and nontidal wetland identification, restoration, creation, and protection; and explore emerging science and innovation to ensure wetland health and survival

HB 2050 (Delegate Bulova)

Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program established.

Creates the Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program to reduce excessive levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in public drinking water derived from the Occoquan Reservoir. The bill requires certain facilities to monitor for PFAS and to report all results to the Department of Environmental Quality. For any facility that measures exceedances in its discharge of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water, the Department shall amend individual Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits to require that the facility's discharge does not exceed that MCL. The bill requires the modified permit

to provide a compliance schedule that requires compliance with such a level as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 2029, provided the drinking water MCL remains in place.

[HB 2630](#) (Delegate Willett)

Replacement of trees during development process in localities; tree canopy fund.

Allows localities by ordinance to establish a tree canopy fund to collect, maintain, and distribute fees collected from developers that cannot provide for full tree canopy requirements where the development project is situated. The bill allows a locality to use moneys from the fund to (i) plant and maintain trees on public or private property or (ii) make disbursements to a community-based organization that is exempt from income tax.

DID NOT PASS / VETOED

[SB 1198](#) (Senator Deeds)

Land conservation goals and needs assessment.

Establishes a goal of the permanent conservation of 20 percent of the land area of Virginia by 2035 and requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to monitor progress toward such goal and, every five years beginning in 2030, establish additional goals for 2040, 2045, and 2050. The bill also requires an annual land needs assessment report.

[SB 1319](#) (Senator McPike)

Self-reporting of PFAS manufacture and use for PFAS assessment.

Requires certain new or existing industrial users to self-report use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as part of a pretreatment program. The bill requires every publicly owned treatment works receiving such self-report of PFAS from an industrial user to convey the information to the Department of Environmental Quality within 90 days of receipt.

[HB 2638](#) (Delegate Hope)

Conservation and replacement of trees during development process.

Expands statewide local government authority to conserve or replace trees during the development process. The bill allows localities to establish higher tree canopy replacement percentages based on density per acre. The bill also alters the current process for granting exceptions to a local ordinance by altering a provision that requires the granting of an exception when strict application of the ordinance would result in unnecessary or unreasonable hardship to the developer and requiring that the locality concur with such alteration.

[HB2782](#) (Delegate Simonds)

Removes creel limit for blue catfish.

Requires the Board of Wildlife Resources to amend regulations to remove the one-fish daily limit for blue catfish longer than 32 inches in the Commonwealth.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS – Awaiting Governor’s Signature

- **Study of the Water Quality Improvement Fund**
- **Stormwater Local Assistance Fund:** \$0 (Governor’s Veto of \$40 million upheld)
- **Wastewater Upgrades:** \$400 million in bond authority (Governor’s Veto of general fund expenditure upheld)
- **Environmental Literacy:** \$750,000 (Governor’s amendment passed-by)
- **Agricultural Cost Share:** \$226 million

MARYLAND

(90-day session, January 10-April 8)

PASSED

HB0128 (Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo) / SB0149 (Senator Hester)

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation - Total Assessed Cost of Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Study and Reports

Requiring the Comptroller, in coordination with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Commerce, to conduct a study to assess the total cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State and report certain findings to certain committees on or before December 1, 2026, on the total assessed cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State based on the findings of a certain study; authorizing the Comptroller to hire a consultant to conduct the study; and requiring the report to include certain information and calculations.

HB0131 (Delegates Stein, Guyton, and Ruth) / SB0117 (Senator Hester)

Environment - Bay Restoration Fund - Septic System Upgrade Program

Updating the funding priorities for failing sewage systems and holding tanks; requiring as a second priority those located within the Maryland Chesapeake Bay 8-digit watershed that have a relative effectiveness for total nitrogen reduction of 9.24 or higher based on the Chesapeake Bay watershed model; requiring as a third priority funding for failing systems within the 500-year floodplain, and fourth to certain other failing systems; and expanding certain funding eligibility criteria for on-site and community sewage systems.

HB0277 (Delegate Ruth, Stien, et al.) / SB0096 (Senator Brooks)

Environment - Water Bottle Filling Stations - Requirement

Requiring at least one water bottle filling station or a combined water bottle filling station and drinking fountain to be installed in certain new construction or as part of certain renovations beginning October 1, 2025, subject to certain exceptions; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act; and applying the Act prospectively.

HB0397 (Delegates D. Jones, Jacobs, T. Morgan, and Stewart) / SB0363 (Senator Bailey)

Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation - Oyster Shucking House Loan Program

Altering a certain loan program to authorize the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation to provide loans in an amount up to \$25,000 for certain seasonal full-time jobs; and reducing, from 5 years to 3 years, the number of years that a person must have been a licensed seafood dealer in order to be eligible to receive financing under the loan program.

HB0446 (Delegates T. Morgan, Ruth et al) / SB0186 (Senators Bailey and Mautz)

Natural Resources - Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program

Establishing the Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources to curb the spread of the invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; requiring the Department to expand the use of practices determined to be effective under the Program; and requiring the

Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on its findings and recommendations based on the Pilot Program.

[HB0506](#) (Speaker by request of Administration and Delegates Stein, Ruth et al) / [SB0428](#) (The President by Request of the Administration and Senators Love, M. Washington, et al)

Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act

Establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program; establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program Fund to support actions associated with the Program's purpose; altering the definition of "healthy soils" for purposes of the Maryland Healthy Soils Program; exempting certain holders of certain fishing licenses from the requirement to obtain a food establishment license from the Maryland Department of Health; establishing the Water Quality Monitoring Program; etc.

[HB0717](#) (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee by request of Department of Natural Resources)

Natural Resources - Public Lands - Acquisition, Staffing, Operations, and Funding

Altering provisions of law regarding the acquisition of real property by the Department of Natural Resources; establishing a Land and Property Management Program in the Department to process certain transactions; authorizing the Department and the Natural Resources Police to establish affiliated foundations; authorizing the Governor to transfer certain Program Open Space funds to the Department under certain circumstances; altering and repealing certain provisions of law regarding the use of Program Open Space local funding; etc.

[HB0731](#) (Delegate Ruth, Lehman, Stein et al.) / [SB0635](#) (Senators Lewis Young and Rosapepe)

Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings

Establishing the Maryland Connectivity Coalition to foster collaboration among State and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders for the purpose of protecting endangered wildlife from habitat fragmentation; requiring the State Highway Administration to have final decision-making authority regarding decisions related to placement, funding, or design of wildlife crossings; etc.

[HB1155](#) (Delegate Stein) / [SB0722](#) (Senator Henson and Augustine)

Department of the Environment - Definition of Ecological Restoration

Defining the term "ecological restoration" as an activity undertaken with the goal of recovering, re-establishing, or enhancing a degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystem through improvements to physical, chemical, or biological characteristics or processes, returning natural or historical functions or services, or protecting or improving resiliency.

[SB0168](#) (Senator Simonaire)

Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells - Construction – Moratorium

Prohibiting the Department of the Environment from processing or making any recommendation on a certain application submitted for the purpose of constructing a confined aquatic disposal cell from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2029; and prohibiting the Board of Public Works from approving a

certain application submitted for the purpose of constructing a confined aquatic disposal cell from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2029.

[HB0902](#) (Delegates Legman, Ruth, Stein et al) / [SB0425](#) (Senator M. Jackson)

Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products - Fees, Coordinating Committee, and Regulations

Altering the factors that the Department of the Environment is required to consider in establishing a certain fee; requiring the Department to use certain excess fees collected from certain generators of coal combustion by-products for certain purposes; establishing the Statewide Coal Combustion By-Products Coordinating Committee to share information, monitoring results, and certain remedial actions with respect to certain coal combustion by-product sites; etc.

[SB0901](#) (Senators Augustine, Love, M. Washington et al)

Environment - Packaging and Paper Products - Producer Responsibility Plans

Requiring certain producers of covered materials, individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization, to submit a certain covered materials producer responsibility plan to the Department of the Environment for review and approval on or before July 1, 2028, and every 5 years thereafter, in accordance with certain requirements, or to develop an alternative collection program; requiring a producer responsibility organization to pay certain costs to the Department; etc.

DID NOT PASS / VETOED

[SB0042](#) (Senator M. Washington)

Environment - Interjurisdictional Watersheds - Flood Management

Requiring the Department of the Environment to designate the watersheds of Carroll Creek in Frederick City and Frederick County, Gwynns Falls and Jones Falls in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and Herring Run, including the Herring Run Stream in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and all their headwaters and tributaries as interjurisdictional flood hazard watersheds.

[HB0232](#) (Delegates Terrasa, Ruth, et al) / [SB0346](#) (Senators Brooks, M. Washington et al)

Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Establishing the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce the litter, pollution, and costs associated with beverage containers; prohibiting a producer from selling, offering for sale, or distributing in or importing into the State a redeemable beverage container unless the producer is registered with the Department of the Environment, pays a certain fee, and is part of a certain stewardship organization; etc.

[HB0386](#) (Delegate Ruth, et al) / [SB0345](#) (Senator Brooks)

Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions

Requiring, by January 1, 2032, the Department of Agriculture to develop, maintain, post on its website, and distribute to all certified applicators a list of certain registered pesticides that list PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide; prohibiting, beginning June 1, 2032, a person from using, for certain purposes, PFAS pesticides listed by the Department; prohibiting, beginning June 1, 2032, a person from using PFAS pesticides in the State; etc.

[HB0909](#) (Delegate Stein) / [SB0732](#) (Senator Love)

Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Concentration Limits

Requiring certain sewage sludge utilization permits issued or renewed by the Department of the Environment to limit the concentration of certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances to 1 microgram per kilogram, the level established in certain health-based standards, or the level established by the Department under the Act; establishing requirements for the demonstration of compliance with the limits established under the Act; and authorizing the Department to establish certain additional limits by regulation.

[HB1175](#) (Delegate Stein) / [SB0898](#) (Senator Love)

Nutrient Management – Tidal Buffer – Vegetative Buffers and Restriction on Fertilizer Application

Authorizing, in accordance with technical specifications adopted by the Department of Agriculture, that State cost-share funding be made available for installing various vegetative buffer practices on land within the 100-foot tidal buffer on an agricultural operation; prohibiting a nutrient management plan renewed after July 1, 2025, from allowing a person to apply certain fertilizer to land within the 100-foot tidal buffer; etc.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund – DNR may use up to \$10.5 million to support operating expenses.

Waterways Improvement Fund – Up to \$2.1 million may be used to support the marine operations of the Natural Resources police (increase from \$2 million).

Clean Water Commerce Program – \$20 million remains available for projects.

Program Open Space – For FY2026, up to \$16.4 million may be used for operating expenses in the Maryland Park Service. Rural Legacy Program reduced by \$9.98 million for FY2026-2029; transferred to General Fund.

PENNSYLVANIA (as of 4-28-2025)

(2025-2026 2-year, full-time Session, January 7, 2025-November 30, 2026)

[SB 626](#) (Yaw)

Clean Streams Fund

Would allocate to the Clean Streams Fund 50% of revenue from a tax on skill games.

Status: Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee

[HB 1116](#) (Pugh)

PFAS – Biosolids

Would require DEP to conduct a study on PFAS in biosolids.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 1261](#) (Munroe)/[SB Pending](#) (Yaw)

PFAS – Firefighting Foam

Would prohibit the sale, beginning 7/1/26, and use, beginning 7/1/27, of Class B firefighting foams containing PFAS, with exceptions for certain facilities. The State Fire Commissioner must assist local

departments with the transition and develop a plan for disposal of remaining stock. Would require warning labels for PPE containing PFAS.

Status: HB On the Table in House; SB in draft at LRB

[SB 403 \(Yaw\)/ HB 327 \(Owlett\)](#)

Stream Cleaning – Ten Year Maintenance Permit

Would allow for local governments to apply for a 10-year stream maintenance permit.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[SB 404 \(Yaw\)/ HB 328 \(Owlett\)](#)

Stream Cleaning – Emergency Maintenance Permit

Would allow counties to opt-in to emergency maintenance permits in consultation with their county conservation district.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 586 \(Friel\)](#)

Food Processing Residuals – Solid Waste Management Act

Would amend the Solid Waste Management Act to:

- Differentiate between various sources of FPR and create a classification based upon their potential risk to farms and community, these distinct categories of FPR will be used to guide safe storage, handling, and application requirements of that FPR material.
- Require FPR that is sourced from animal products or animal product waste to be processed by a digester or another means before allowing to be stored on farms or be used as FPR;
- Require documentation of FPR makeup and nutrients provided prior to being applied to farmland;
- Require FPR nutrient levels be included with any application plan before being applied to farmland;
- Require review by conservation district of application plan before FPR is applied to farmland; and
- Require brokers and haulers of FPR to be licensed by the Commonwealth.

Status: On the Table in House

[HB 587 \(Friel\)](#)

Food Processing Residuals – Haulers/Brokers

Would establish a training and certification program and standards for the hauling and brokering of food processing residuals to be administered by PDA in partnership with the State Conservation Commission. Would pre-empt local ordinances.

Status: On the Table in House

[HB 664 \(Webster\)](#)

Road Salt

Would require DEP to develop and annually update a Road Salt Best Practices Guide.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 1089](#) (Steele)

High PAH Driveway Sealants

Would prohibit the sale and use of driveway sealants with more than 0.1% polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Status: On the Table in House

[HB 659](#) (Webster)

Comprehensive Stormwater Management Planning & Integrated Water Resources Planning

Would require, with enforceability, the development and implementation of comprehensive watershed-based stormwater management plans by municipalities or counties. Would allow a county, multiple counties, multiple municipalities or water resource management authorities to develop integrated water resources management plans.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 958](#) (Gleim)/ [SB 204](#) (Rothman)

MS4s

Would require the use of monitoring data in the implementation of MS4 permits.

Status: HB in House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee; SB in Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

[HB 1038](#) (Steele)

Green Roofs

Would allow for \$10M in tax credits for the installation of a green roof, up to \$100,000/taxpayer.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 426](#) (Pielli)

Native Plants

Would require native plants in any new landscape at Commonwealth facilities.

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[SB 349](#) (Yaw)

Solar Facilities

Would require planning and bonding for the decommissioning of solar facilities.

Status: Second Consideration in Senate

[HR 192](#) (Hill-Evans, Benninghoff, Rivera)/[SB Co-sponsor Memo](#) (Martin, Yaw)

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Would designate the week of June 8-14, 2025 as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week in Pennsylvania.

Status: HR in House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee; SR Pending