



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania

VIRGINIA

(60-day Regular Session, January 14 – March 14)

PASSED & SIGNED

[HB52](#) (Delegate Bloxom)

MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION; BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.

Provides that, beginning December 1, 2027, it is the policy of the Commonwealth to promote the beneficial use of dredged material, as defined in the bill, and that the Marine Resources Commission shall require the beneficial use of dredged material for all permits involving dredged material unless such approaches are not suitable based on criteria developed by the Commission. The bill also adds the sites of projects that are consistent with the beneficial use of dredged material to the sites that are given priority consideration for the disposal of that portion of dredged material determined to be suitable for such use by the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. The bill directs the Commission to establish a work group to assist in the development of any regulations or guidance to implement the provisions of the bill. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding.

[HB237](#) (Delegate Lopez)

VA. COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN; IDENTIFYING AREAS WHERE MARSHES MAY MIGRATE IN FACE OF SEA RISE.

Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation, when updating the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to identify areas where marshes may migrate in the face of sea level rise.

[HB390](#) (Delegate Askew) / [HB619](#) (Delegate Bloxom)

MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION; HABITAT POLICY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED; POWERS AND DUTIES.

Establishes the Habitat Policy Oversight Committee within the Marine Resources Commission to advise the Commission and the Habitat Management Division of the Commission on policies within their jurisdiction and to support the Commission's coastal resilience efforts. The bill establishes the powers and duties of the Committee, establishes how the members of the Committee are appointed, and provides that the Committee shall have 11 voting members and two ex-officio members. This bill incorporates [HB 619](#).

[HB549](#) (Delegate Hope) / [HB995](#) (Delegate Seibold) / [SB589](#) (Senator Salim)

CONSERVATION OF TREES DURING LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS; PLANNING DISTRICT 8; MINIMUM TREE CANOPY OR COVER PERCENTAGES REQUIREMENTS AFTER DEVELOPMENT.

Allows any locality within Planning District 8 belonging to an eight-hour nonattainment area for air quality standards to require, by ordinance, that a subdivision or development provide for the preservation or replacement of trees on the development site such that the minimum tree canopy or cover 10 years after development is projected to meet specified coverage criteria. Under current law, the criteria apply to tree canopy coverage 20 years after development. The bill also allows such localities to include in their tree canopy ordinance reasonable provisions preserving trees of outstanding age, size, species, beauty, or other special significance.

[HB 1072](#) (Delegate Laufer)

LOCAL AUTHORITY TO TEST AND MONITOR THE LAND APPLICATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE WITHIN ITS POLITICAL BOUNDARIES.
Allows a locality to provide for testing and monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as defined in relevant law, of the land application of sewage sludge within its political boundaries using an applicable test method established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The bill prohibits any expenses from such testing and monitoring from being eligible for reimbursement from the Sludge Management Fund.

[SB 138](#) (Senator McPike) / [HB 938](#) (Clark)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER; PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS; PFAS MONITORING.

Directs every publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to require certain new or industrial users of such POTW to perform and report to such POTW no later than 30 days after receipt from a laboratory the results as received of quarterly discharge monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for an initial characterization period of one year, provided, however, that such POTW may discontinue remaining quarterly monitoring by an industrial user with proper monitoring results that are below the method detection level for the first two quarters. If an industrial user detects PFAS in any amount above the detection method limit in its initial year of quarterly monitoring, the bill requires such industrial user to continue to perform and report to the POTW no later than 30 days after receipt from the laboratory the results as received of quarterly discharge monitoring for PFAS. The bill requires a POTW that receives PFAS monitoring results to report such results to the Department of Environmental Quality on a quarterly basis. Finally, the bill directs any POTW to notify an owner or operator of an industrial user subject to the monitoring requirements of the bill of the requirement to submit the initial quarterly monitoring results for PFAS within 30 days of the effective date of the bill.

[SB 386](#) (Senator Stuart) / [HB 1443](#) (Delegate Lopez)

OWNERS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS; LAND APPLICATION, MARKETING, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE; PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES; TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

Directs any owner of a sewage treatment works land applying, marketing, or distributing sewage sludge in the Commonwealth, beginning January 1, 2027, to collect representative samples of the sewage sludge intended to be land applied, marketed, or distributed and have such samples analyzed by an accredited laboratory for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The bill mandates certain outcomes for the land application of such sewage sludge depending on the concentration of PFAS in such sewage sludge. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality to modify all Virginia Pollution Abatement permits for the land application of sewage sludge and Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for sewage treatment works that include sewage sludge prepared for land application, marketing, or distribution as soon as practicable. The bill requires the Department to utilize the PFAS Expert Advisory Committee (PEAC) or convene a work group to study and recommend approaches to reduce the occurrence of PFAS in sewage sludge intended for land application within the Commonwealth. The Department is required to report the recommendations of the PEAC or work group to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by November 1, 2027.

[SB 453](#) (Senator Stuart)

INTENTIONAL DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE ONTO LAND OR INTO WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH; CIVIL PENALTY.

Establishes a maximum civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation for any person found to have intentionally discharged untreated sewage onto land or into waters of the Commonwealth.

DID NOT PASS / VETOED

[HB386](#) (Delegate Krizek) / [SB499](#) (Senator Marsden)

CHESAPEAKE BAY PAY FOR OUTCOMES FUND ESTABLISHED.

Establishes the Chesapeake Bay Pay for Outcomes Fund to provide outcome-based payments for verified reductions in nutrient and sediment pollution from nonpoint sources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed of the Commonwealth. The Department of Environmental Quality is directed to administer the Fund and to establish a competitive solicitation process for awarding payments from the Fund.

[HB389](#) (Delegate Askew)

MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION; FISHERIES CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN; REPORT.

Directs the Marine Resources Commission, in collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, to develop and maintain a fisheries climate adaptation plan that utilizes the best available science to consider climate-driven impacts to Virginia fisheries and aquaculture and identify adaptive management strategies and research needs necessary to safeguard the economic and environmental health of Virginia fisheries. The Commission is directed to convene a technical advisory committee of relevant stakeholders to aid in the development of such plan, to update the plan at least once every three years, and to submit a report detailing the plan to relevant executive agency personnel and committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2026, for the initial plan and December 1 in any year in which the plan is updated.

[HB599](#) (Delegate Simonds)

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE; DUTIES; OYSTER STOCK ASSESSMENT; REPORT.

Directs the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to conduct, in collaboration with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), a stock assessment of the oyster population in the waters of the Commonwealth beginning in calendar year 2026 and occurring no less frequently than every three years thereafter. The bill directs VIMS to report its findings and any recommendations to the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, VMRC's Shellfish Management Division, and the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than December 1 of the calendar year in which such assessment has been conducted. The bill also directs VMRC to utilize the findings and recommendations of such assessment in its fisheries and restoration management decisions no later than July 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which such assessment has been conducted.

[HB1038](#) (Delegate Carr)

VIRGINIA STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN GRANT FUND AND PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

Establishes the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program, to be administered by The Office of Environmental Education, in consultation with the Department of Education and any other stakeholder that it deems appropriate, for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis to any school division that seeks assistance to develop a local student environmental literacy plan.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS – Pending a Special Session of the General Assembly to complete work on the 2026-2028 Biennium Budget Bill

MARYLAND

(90-day session, January 14-April 13)

PASSED

[HB254](#) (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee by request of Department of Natural Resources)

SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ADAPTATION ACT

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to facilitate community participation in project planning and development; establishing the Resilience Through Restoration Capital Grant Fund to provide funding for nature-based restoration projects intended to reduce the State's climate change vulnerability; requiring, by October 1, 2027, the Department to develop a website, guidance, and training for certain tools and resources; requiring, by December 31, 2035, the Department to take certain actions relating to climate change; etc.

[HB0255](#) (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee by request of Department of Natural Resources, and Delegates Boyce, Homes, and Odom) / [SB0164](#) (Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee by request of Department of Natural Resources)

NATURAL RESOURCES - PAMELA J. KELLY TREE-MENDOUS MARYLAND PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS

Altering the stated purpose of the Pamela J. Kelly Tree-Mendous Maryland Program to include the advancement of forest health and resilience through the promotion and maintenance of native trees and shrubs.

[HB0429](#) (Delegates Boyce, Ruth, et al.) / [SB0599](#) (Senators Hester and Hettleman)

ON-FARM ORGANICS DIVERSION AND RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

Establishing, beginning July 1, 2028, the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling, compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$250,000 for the program; and requiring the Department, beginning December 31, 2028, to annually report to the General Assembly on the impact of the grant program.

[HB0701](#) (Delegates Hill, Lehman, et al.) / [SB0523](#) (Senator M. Washington)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - WATER RESOURCES - IDENTIFICATION OF VERNAL POOLS (JACK COVER VERNAL POOLS ACT OF 2026)

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the Department of the Environment to identify certain vernal pools in the State; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to create and maintain a certain list of vernal pools in the State in a certain manner; and requiring the Department of the Environment to designate staff to receive training in vernal pool identification and to notify the Department of Natural Resources under certain circumstances.

[HB0925](#) (Delegates Stein, Behler, et al.) / [SB0719](#) (Senators Love and Hester)

SEWAGE SLUDGE - PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES – REGULATION

Establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after October 1, 2027, of sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with total concentrations of certain regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or before September 30, 2029, a person to blend sewage sludge from multiple sources for a certain purpose and subject to certain regulations and requirements; establishing certain monitoring protocols; etc.

[HB1599](#) (Delegates Jacobs, Allen, et al.) / [SB0558](#) (Senators Bailey, Augustine, et al.)

CHESAPEAKE BAY - ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AND MARYLAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND – ESTABLISHED

Establishing the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program in the Department of Natural Resources to provide funding for oyster propagation and replenishment projects that mitigate the effects of transportation projects on the State's oyster population; and establishing the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to certain commercial watermen and small businesses.

DID NOT PASS

[HB0146](#) (Delegates Guyton, Holmes, and J. Long) / [SB0165](#) (Senator Brooks)

ENVIRONMENT - ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS - REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTION AND PUMPING SERVICES AND IMPLEMENTATION DATES

Requiring a landlord of property that is served by an on-site wastewater system to ensure, on or before July 1, 2028, and before each new tenant occupies the property thereafter, that the system has been inspected and pumped out in a certain manner; requiring a delegated approval authority to approve, to the extent practicable, the repair or replacement of any failed components of a drain field of a failing on-site wastewater system; extending certain dates; etc.

[HB0331](#) (Delegates Terrasa, Ruth, et al.) / [SB0342](#) (Senators Brooks, Love, 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 beverage container stewardship organization; etc.

[HB1022](#) (Delegates Ruth, Allen, Stein, et al.) / [SB0686](#) (Senator Love)

PFAS CHEMICALS - PRODUCT PHASE OUTS AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Prohibiting manufacturers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or distributing for sale in the State, certain products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals on or after certain dates; establishing registration requirements for certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals; providing for the testing of certain products to determine compliance with the Act; etc.

[HB1268](#) (Delegates Behler, Allen, Ivey, Ruth, et al.) / [SB0781](#) (Senator Brooks)

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS - REQUIREMENTS FOR BURDEN ANALYSIS, ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (CUMULATIVE HARMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FOR IMPROVING SHARED HEALTH - CHERISH OUR COMMUNITIES ACT)

Requiring an application for the issuance or renewal of a covered individual environmental permit for a site or facility located within an at-risk census tract after a certain date to include in the permit application a report describing the environmental and public health burdens in the at-risk census tract; requiring the Department of the Environment to issue a determination as to whether approving a covered individual environmental permit will cause or contribute to adverse environmental or public health stressors; etc.

[HB1621](#) (Delegates Grammer, Behler, and Guyton)

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS - DISCHARGES – REQUIREMENTS

Requiring certain wastewater treatment plants to maintain a publicly accessible website on which certain information relating to certain discharges is required to be published in a certain manner; and requiring certain wastewater treatment plants to begin certain testing within 24 hours after a bypass, overflow, or treatment failure that requires testing for certain chemicals or bacteria.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Land Preservation:** \$31.0m for Program Open Space, \$13.4m for the Rural Legacy Program, and \$41.9m for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program (combined \$48.6m above FY2026)
- **Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program:** \$8.0m (not authorized FY2026)
- **Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:** \$230m (+\$27.2m above FY2026)
- **UMCES Horn Point Laboratory:** +\$400,000

PENNSYLVANIA (as of 5-5-2026)

(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

[SB 1079 \(Yaw\)](#)

CLEAN STREAMS FUND

Would allocate ten percent of revenue from a per-machine fee on skill games to the Clean Streams Fund.

Status: Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee

[SB 980 \(Yaw\)](#)/[HB 1261 \(Munroe\)](#)****

PFAS – FIREFIGHTING FOAM

Would prohibit the sale, beginning 7/1/27, and use, beginning 7/1/28, of Class B firefighting foams containing PFAS, with exceptions. 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: SB in Senate Appropriations/HB First consideration in Senate

[HB 1116 \(Pugh\)](#)

PFAS – BIOSOLIDS

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

Status: House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

[HB 2145 \(Scott\)](#)

PFAS – PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

Would prohibit the use of PFAS in certain personal care and children’s products.

Status: On the Table in House

[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 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: Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

[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: Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

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

ROAD SALT

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

Status: Senate Transportation 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: Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

[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 1308 \(Fleming\)](#)

STORMWATER FEES

Would designate stormwater fees as “fees” and not a “tax” for purposes of payment from tax-exempt entities.

Status: On the Table in House

[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: House Appropriations Committee

[HR 508 \(Hill-Evans, Benninghoff, Rivera\)](#)/[SB Co-Sponsor Memo \(Martin, Yaw\)](#)

CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK

Would designate the week of June 7-13, 2026 as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week in Pennsylvania.

Status: HR in House State Government Committee; SR co-sponsor memo circulated