

HB0706/730912/1

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 706
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 30, after “policy;” insert “declaring a certain intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Department to convene a certain stakeholder group after a certain time to perform a certain review and make certain recommendations;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in lines 12 and 25, in each instance, strike “**6-YEAR**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 6, in line 21, strike “**BY 2020**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 14, in line 5, after “**PLAN**” insert “**GROWTH OFFSET**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 15, in line 24, strike “**REQUIRE**” and substitute “**ON A FINDING BY AN AUDITOR MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT A LOCAL AUTHORITY HAS MISAPPROPRIATED LOCAL FOREST CONSERVATION FUNDS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 16, in lines 15 and 16, strike “Resources and” and substitute “Resources.”; in line 16, after “Council,” insert “and other interested parties.”; in line 18, strike “the”; in the same line, strike “of development”; after line 22, insert:

“SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(Over)

(1) the policy of achieving no net loss of forest shall be implemented in a manner that does not incentivize the conversion of prime agricultural land with Natural Resources Conservation Service type I, II, or III soil classification to forestland, except for conservation best management practices meeting Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications; but

(2) this Act may not be construed to prohibit an owner of agricultural land from voluntarily agreeing to place conservation best management practices on the property owner's agricultural land.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, following the release of the first statewide forest resource inventory after January 1, 2017, the Department of Natural Resources shall convene a stakeholder group comprised of representatives from local government, agriculture, forestry, development, conservation, and other interested parties to review the inventory and make recommendations in accordance with the policy goals established under § 5-102(b) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 this Act.”;

and in line 23, strike “6.” and substitute “8.”.