

# HOUSE BILL 1503

P1  
HB 61/17 – HGO

8lr0450

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By: **Delegate Lisanti**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Designations – State Waterfowl – Canvasback Duck**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the canvasback duck as the State waterfowl; and generally  
4 relating to a State waterfowl.

5 BY adding to  
6 Article – General Provisions  
7 Section 7–311  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The canvasback duck is a species of diving duck, the largest in North  
12 America, known for its distinctive wedge-shaped head and long graceful neck; and

13 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay’s Susquehanna Flats was once the winter home of  
14 about half of North America’s canvasback population, totaling more than 250,000 at its  
15 peak; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 19th century, canvasbacks in the Susquehanna Flats played a  
17 historic role in the State’s watermen’s traditions and were a frequent target of market game  
18 hunters, given their popularity in the State as a food source; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, canvasbacks on the Chesapeake Bay have declined to about  
20 50,000, largely due to the decline in water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)  
21 in the Bay, where canvasbacks find wild celery, their principal food supply; and

22 WHEREAS, The State’s commitment to the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort is  
23 critical to the return of SAV, an absolute prerequisite for growing and sustaining the  
24 canvasback population; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Given the canvasback's historical significance to the Chesapeake Bay  
2 region in the State and its majestic beauty and characteristics, the canvasback serves as a  
3 symbol of the resilience and improving health of the Chesapeake Bay; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
5 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6 **Article – General Provisions**

7 **7–311.**

8 **THE CANVASBACK DUCK (AYTHYA VALISINERIA) IS THE STATE WATERFOWL.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2018.