

# SENATE BILL 203

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CF HB 120

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By: **Senators Young, Elfreth, Feldman, Hester, Lee, Pinsky, Rosapepe, Washington, ~~and West~~ West, Benson, Ellis, Guzzone, Kagan, Lam, Nathan-Pulliam, and Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2019

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – No Net Loss of Forest – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the standard for achieving a no net loss of forest policy to  
4 measure for forest land by altering the definition of “no net loss of forest”; providing  
5 that this Act may not be interpreted to disrupt certain programs; and generally  
6 relating to the State’s no net loss of forest policy.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Natural Resources  
9 Section 5–101(a) and 5–102(b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2018 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 5–101(i)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume)

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

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 5–101.

2 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (i) “No net loss of forest” means 40% of all land in Maryland is covered by [tree  
4 canopy] **FOREST LAND, AS DETERMINED BY DATA USED IN THE MOST CURRENT**  
5 **CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED MODEL DEFINED IN COMAR 26.08.11.03.**

6 5–102.

7 (b) It is the policy of the State to encourage the retention and sustainable  
8 management of forest lands by:

9 (1) Achieving no net loss of forest;

10 (2) Affording due consideration to the protection and retention of forests in  
11 the State through existing land conservation programs where they have the highest value  
12 in terms of promoting the State’s compliance with its clean water goals under the 2014  
13 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the 2007 Forestry Conservation Initiative;

14 (3) Enhancing the retention of privately owned forest lands through  
15 research–based educational outreach efforts to landowners by the State’s forest  
16 conservancy district boards;

17 (4) Developing financial incentives to encourage landowners to retain and  
18 manage their forests sustainably and in a manner that is consistent with a forest  
19 stewardship plan;

20 (5) Promoting renewable energy policies and markets with increased  
21 emphasis on the use of in–State produced woody biomass;

22 (6) Ensuring dual certification of the State’s forests by the Forest  
23 Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative;

24 (7) Recognizing the importance of:

25 (i) A viable forest products industry to the economies of rural  
26 Maryland;

27 (ii) Continued development of fiber products; and

28 (iii) Maryland’s green infrastructure; and

29 (8) Developing and enhancing programs with a sustainable forestry  
30 component, including a forest mitigation banking system, a carbon credit or carbon

1 sequestration program, a clean water credit trading system, an environmental services  
2 credit trading program, and a renewable energy credit trading system.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be  
4 interpreted to expand, limit, or otherwise disrupt any program conducted by a unit of State  
5 or local government in accordance with to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load,  
6 a municipal separate storm sewer system permit, urban tree canopy goals, or any other  
7 local program.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2019.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.