

SENATE BILL 215

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71r0989

By: **Senators Colburn, Harris, Pugh, and Robey**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection**
3 **Program – Advisory Committee**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing an advisory committee to study and recommend
5 certain reforms of a certain growth allocation process within the Chesapeake
6 and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program; providing for the
7 membership and staffing of the Advisory Committee; requiring the Advisory
8 Committee to report its findings and recommendations to certain persons on or
9 before a certain date; and generally relating to growth allocation and critical
10 areas.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) There is an advisory committee to study and recommend potential
14 legislative reforms of the growth allocation process in the Chesapeake and Atlantic
15 Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

16 (b) The Advisory Committee consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
18 Affairs Committee, appointed by the Chair of the Committee;

19 (2) one member of the House Environmental Matters Committee,
20 appointed by the Chair of the Committee; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the following eight members, each designated by their own
2 organization:

3 (i) one representative from the staff of the Critical Areas
4 Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays;

5 (ii) one representative from the Department of Natural
6 Resources;

7 (iii) one representative from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation;

8 (iv) one representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

9 (v) one representative from The Nature Conservancy;

10 (vi) one representative from the University System of Maryland;

11 (vii) one representative from the Department of Planning; and

12 (viii) one representative from the Maryland State Builders
13 Association.

14 (c) The Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic
15 Coastal Bays Critical Area shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Advisory Committee.

16 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the
17 Advisory Committee.

18 (e) A member of the Advisory Committee:

19 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Committee; but

20 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
21 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

22 (f) The Advisory Committee shall:

23 (1) develop criteria and identify Resource Conservation Area lands in
24 the State that should not be subject to growth allocation because of their
25 environmental sensitivity and value; and

1 (2) recommend legislation for the 2009 legislative session for
2 improving and strengthening growth allocation guidelines and requirements, which
3 may include:

4 (i) a prohibition on growth allocation awards for Resource
5 Conservation Area lands identified by the Advisory Committee as environmentally
6 sensitive and valuable; and

7 (ii) a required designation in a local comprehensive master plan
8 of lands planned for growth allocation.

9 (g) On or before December 1, 2008, the Advisory Committee shall report its
10 findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
11 Article, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the
12 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House
13 Environmental Matters Committee, and the Governor.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 June 1, 2007.