

HOUSE BILL 1037

P1

6lr3151

By: **Delegate Lisanti**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2016

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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 2015 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 over 250,000 at its peak; and

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

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

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

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, 2016.