

Chapter 743

(House Bill 727)

AN ACT concerning

**State Designations – State Paleontology Collection and Research Center –
Calvert Marine Museum**

FOR the purpose of designating the Calvert Marine Museum as the State paleontology collection and research center; and generally relating to a State paleontology collection and research center.

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–325
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Calvert Marine Museum is located in Southern Maryland near the Calvert Cliffs, one of the richest fossil deposits along the Atlantic coastal plain; and

WHEREAS, Calvert Cliffs is home to fossils as old as 18,000,000 years and represents one of the most important Miocene Epoch sites in the world; and

WHEREAS, Calvert Marine Museum paleontologists collect, identify, preserve, and interpret fossils from Calvert Cliffs; and

WHEREAS, Calvert Marine Museum has been building a fossil collection for almost 40 years and currently has 100,000 fossils, 600 skeletons, 200 casts, and 5,000 modern shells in its collection; and

WHEREAS, Given the Calvert Marine Museum’s contributions to the study of paleontology in Maryland, the nation, and around the world, the Calvert Marine Museum is a valuable and unique State institution necessary for the collection and research of Maryland’s prehistoric treasures; and

WHEREAS, The Calvert Marine Museum plans to construct a new paleontology research and collections center, within the next 5 years, with the capacity to prepare and house fossils from across the State, host researchers from around the world, and create a publicly accessible statewide directory of fossils; now, therefore,

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

Article – General Provisions

7-325.

THE CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM IS THE STATE PALEONTOLOGY COLLECTION AND RESEARCH CENTER.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.