

# 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**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

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”; and  
5 generally relating to the State’s no net loss of forest policy.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

7 Article – Natural Resources

8 Section 5–101(a) and 5–102(b)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2018 Replacement Volume)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Natural Resources

13 Section 5–101(i)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2018 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 5–101.

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

21 (i) “No net loss of forest” means 40% of all land in Maryland is covered by [tree  
22 canopy] **FOREST LAND**.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5–102.

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

4 (1) Achieving no net loss of forest;

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

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

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

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

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

19 (7) Recognizing the importance of:

20 (i) A viable forest products industry to the economies of rural  
21 Maryland;

22 (ii) Continued development of fiber products; and

23 (iii) Maryland’s green infrastructure; and

24 (8) Developing and enhancing programs with a sustainable forestry  
25 component, including a forest mitigation banking system, a carbon credit or carbon  
26 sequestration program, a clean water credit trading system, an environmental services  
27 credit trading program, and a renewable energy credit trading system.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 2019.