

HOUSE BILL 1599

M1, M2

6lr3603
CF SB 558

By: **Delegates Jacobs, Anderson, Arentz, Beauchamp, Ghrist, Hartman,
Hutchinson, and Sample–Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program to provide
4 funding for certain oyster propagation and replenishment projects that mitigate the
5 effects on the State’s oyster population of certain transportation projects; and
6 generally relating to the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Natural Resources

9 Section 4–1020.1

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 **4–1020.1.**

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**
17 **ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.**

18 **(B) THERE IS A CHESAPEAKE BAY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE**
19 **DEPARTMENT.**

20 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR OYSTER**
21 **PROPAGATION AND REPLENISHMENT PROJECTS THAT MITIGATE THE EFFECTS ON**
22 **THE STATE’S OYSTER POPULATION OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THAT**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 MAINTAIN OR EXPAND THE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT OF BALTIMORE,
2 INCLUDING:

3 (1) DREDGING;

4 (2) THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE OF:

5 (i) PIERS;

6 (ii) BRIDGES; OR

7 (iii) SHIPPING CHANNELS; AND

8 (3) CONSTRUCTION AT THE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT OF
9 BALTIMORE.

10 (D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
11 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
12 \$2,000,000 TO THE PROGRAM FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND UNDER §
13 3-216 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2026.