

# SENATE BILL 558

M1, M2

6lr1971  
CF HB 1599

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By: ~~Senator Bailey~~ Senators Bailey, Augustine, Corderman, Guzzone, Hettleman, Jennings, King, Lewis Young, McCray, Rosapepe, Salling, and Zucker

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 on the  
6 State's oyster population; and generally relating to the Chesapeake Bay  
7 Enhancement Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 4–1020.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 **4–1020.1.**

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (B) THERE IS A CHESAPEAKE BAY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE  
2 DEPARTMENT.

3 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR OYSTER  
4 PROPAGATION AND REPLENISHMENT PROJECTS THAT MITIGATE THE EFFECTS ON  
5 ~~THE STATE'S OYSTER POPULATION OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THAT~~  
6 ~~MAINTAIN OR EXPAND THE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT OF BALTIMORE,~~  
7 ~~INCLUDING:~~

8 (1) DREDGING;

9 (2) ~~THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE OF:~~

10 (i) ~~PIERS;~~

11 (ii) ~~BRIDGES; OR~~

12 (iii) ~~SHIPPING CHANNELS; AND~~

13 (3) ~~CONSTRUCTION AT THE HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT OF~~  
14 ~~BALTIMORE~~ OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ON THE STATE'S OYSTER  
15 POPULATION.

16 (D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
17 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF  
18 ~~\$2,000,000~~ \$2,250,000 TO THE PROGRAM FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST  
19 FUND UNDER § 3-216 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

20 (E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUNDS  
21 APPROPRIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOCATE THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
23 UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION TO SUPPORT OYSTER PROPAGATION AND  
24 REPLENISHMENT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

25 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
26 DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOCATE AT LEAST \$1,500,000 OF THE FUNDS  
27 APPROPRIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION FOR OYSTER  
28 PROPAGATION AND REPLENISHMENT PROJECTS.

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