



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 279

Real Property – Restrictions on Use – Low-Impact Landscaping

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports HB 279 Real Property – Restrictions on Use – Low-Impact Landscaping. This legislation balances aesthetic and historic interests with interests in environmentally friendly landscaping techniques by prohibiting homeowners' associations from imposing unreasonable limitations on property owners' use of "low-impact landscaping" in their own yards.

"Low-impact landscaping" means landscaping techniques that conserve water, lower maintenance cost, provide pollution prevention, and create habitat for wildlife. The use of native plants often reduces the need for application of polluting fertilizers and harmful pesticides.¹ As described by the Maryland Department of Environment, rain gardens provide a primary treatment of stormwater and help prevent pollutants such as motor oils, metals, and pesticides from entering local streams and rivers. Cleaner tributaries deliver downstream benefits to the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation urges a favorable report on HB 279 from the Environment and Transportation Committee. Please contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Maryland Staff Attorney, at 443.482.2165 and REilenberg@cbf.org with any questions.

¹ "Native Plants," Chesapeake Bay Foundation, available at <https://www.cbf.org/join-us/more-things-you-can-do/in-your-yard/native-plants.html>.

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