



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 9, 2022

SPONSOR TESTIMONY
DELEGATE JOHNNY MAUTZ
DIST. 37B – CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, TALBOT & WICOMICO COUNTIES

HB 1313—ENVIRONMENT—EXCEPTION TO NONSTRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Summary

HB1313 would authorize licensed marine contractors to exempt certain landowners from the waiver process of the state’s living shoreline requirements.

Background

Erosion is a significant issue for many landowners and is a serious environmental concern.

In 2008, Maryland enacted the Living Shoreline Protection Act, which requires shoreline property owners to use natural solutions to prevent erosion. This law included a waiver process that has been implemented by regulation.

An MDE waiver worksheet is included for your review.

The waiver process has proven to be exceptionally difficult. HB1313 is a proposal to provide relief to landowners and contractors.

Living shorelines are exceptionally costly and as result, many landowners do not take necessary measures to prevent erosion.

Rationale

Marine contractors have the expertise to make case by case determinations and justifications as to whether or not natural solutions should be required.

Conclusion

If enacted, HB 1313 will enhance shoreline protection and maintain the spirit of our Living Shoreline requirements.