



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

Senate Bill 428
Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act

Position: Informational
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 428.

Senate Bill 428 advances resiliency, climate adaptation, and environmental justice while enhancing protections for the Chesapeake Bay. Strengthening wetland restoration and shoreline stabilization efforts under this legislation aligns with MDE's mission to protect and restore Maryland's natural resources and make communities more resilient to flooding, sea-level rise, and climate change impacts.

By promoting the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program and enhancing the Healthy Soils Program, the bill fosters sustainable agricultural practices that improve soil health, reduce nutrient runoff, and enhance the Bay's water quality. These measures directly contribute to climate resilience by increasing carbon sequestration and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather on farmland and waterways.

Finally, by providing funding and technical support for conservation practices, the bill ensures that historically underserved and disadvantaged communities have equitable access to resources that promote environmental justice.

Supporting SB 428 is a crucial step in safeguarding the Chesapeake Bay and fostering a sustainable, climate-resilient future for Maryland. Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 428.