



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
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April 01, 2026

**Favorable with Amendment: SB 558 Chesapeake Bay Enhancement
Program - Establishment**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports SB 558 - Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program -
Establishment with amendments. We thank Senator Bailey for his leadership
on this issue.

SB 558 establishes in law a funding agreement that has existed for 30 years,
supporting the restoration of Maryland's oyster population and
acknowledging the need for mitigation in response to maintenance dredging
and transportation projects to maintain operations at the Helen Delich
Bentley Port of Baltimore. Maryland LCV believes continuing the agreement
to fund the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program at Maryland Department
of Natural Resources (DNR) through the Transportation Trust Fund is a good
investment and offers appropriate mitigation efforts to support a healthy
oyster population and the livelihood of Maryland watermen.

Maryland LCV is requesting the bill be amended to allow DNR to be able to
continue to operate a robust program with flexibility based on determined
need. For program transparency, we also ask for DNR to provide an annual
work plan informing relevant stakeholders of their plans for how the funding
will be utilized. This will allow DNR to continue their successful operations
to restore and replenish Maryland's oyster population as they have been
doing successfully with the funding received in past years.

Recommended amendments:

ON PAGE 1, LINE 21, AFTER "PROPAGATION," INSERT "RESEARCH,
DEMONSTRATION, RESTORATION"

ON PAGE 2, LINE 10, STRIKE "(D)" AND INSERT, "(D) THE DEPARTMENT
SHALL DRAFT AN ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR THE PROGRAM
DETAILING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. THE WORK PLAN WILL BE
MADE AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE IN ADDITION TO
BEING SHARED WITH RELEVANT ADVISORY BODIES TO THE
DEPARTMENT."

Maryland LCV urges the committee to adopt the recommended
amendments and report favorably on SB 558.

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