



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

February 11, 2026

**Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 258**

**Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Standards and
Procedures**

FAVORABLE

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation
Committee:

On behalf of our Maryland members and supporters, Humane World for Animals offers its
support for HB 258 to update standards and procedures governing the Chesapeake and Atlantic
Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays provide vital resources for their human
inhabitants, as well as essential habitat for a magnificent array of wildlife.

Habitat loss and fragmentation pose an immediate and long-term threat to countless wildlife
species. The U.S. human population is expected to grow to nearly 400 million by 2050, meaning
more development, more deforestation and habitat degradation. A new long-term study finds
that 3 billion birds, even common birds, have vanished in the U.S. and Canada.¹

In response, wildlife management professionals and scientists across the U.S. stress the
importance of conserving and enhancing crucial habitats to ensure the continued health and
wellbeing of wildlife.

Because of this, Humane World for Animals reiterates support for HB 258 to support the
important work of the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stacey Volodin
Maryland State Director, Humane World for Animals
svolodin@humaneworld.org

¹ Rosenberg KV, Dokter AM, Blancher PJ, Sauer JR, Smith AC, Smith PA, Stanton JC, Panjabi A, Helft L, Parr M, Marra PP. Decline of the North
American avifauna. *Science*. 2019 Oct 4;366(6461):120-124. doi: 10.1126/science.aaw1313. Epub 2019 Sep 19. PMID: 31604313.