

(3) The capacity of these shoreline and adjacent lands to withstand continuing demands without further degradation to water quality and natural habitats is limited;

(4) National studies have documented that the quality and productivity of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries have declined due to the cumulative effects of human activity that have caused increased levels of pollutants, nutrients, and toxics in the Bay System and declines in more protective land uses such as forestland and agricultural land in the Bay region;

(5) Those portions of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries within Maryland are particularly stressed by the continuing population growth and development activity concentrated in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan corridor AND ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST;

(6) The quality of life for the citizens of Maryland is enhanced through the restoration of the quality and productivity of the waters of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS, AND THEIR tributaries;

(7) The restoration of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries is dependent, in part, on minimizing further adverse impacts to the water quality and natural habitats of the shoreline and adjacent lands;

(8) The cumulative impact of current development is inimical to these purposes; and

(9) There is a critical and substantial State interest for the benefit of current and future generations in fostering more sensitive development activity in a consistent and uniform manner along shoreline areas of the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries so as to minimize damage to water quality and natural habitats.

(b) It is the purpose of the General Assembly in enacting this subtitle:

(1) To establish a Resource Protection Program for the Chesapeake [Bay and its] AND THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR tributaries by fostering more sensitive development activity for certain shoreline areas so as to minimize damage to water quality and natural habitats; and

(2) To implement the Resource Protection Program on a cooperative basis between the State and affected local governments, with local governments establishing and implementing their programs in a consistent and uniform manner subject to State criteria and oversight.

8-1802.

(a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS" MEANS THE ASSAWOMAN, ISLE OF WIGHT, SINEPUXENT, NEWPORT, AND CHINCOTEAGUE BAYS.