



# **2014 SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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**MARTIN O'MALLEY**  
**GOVERNOR**

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
**LT. GOVERNOR**

**JOSEPH P. GILL**  
**SECRETARY**

**FRANK W. DAWSON**  
**DEPUTY SECRETARY**

**RICHARD D. NORLING**  
**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**580 TAYLOR AVE. • ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21401**

**[WWW.DNR.MARYLAND.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.MARYLAND.GOV)**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of actions during the 2014 General Assembly session that had important impacts on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

As in previous years, the Department of Natural Resources initiated and supported legislation consistent with the Department's stewardship role and mission of preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources. The Department's key legislative priorities in the 2014 session were:

### **Preserving and Protecting Maryland's Land and Trees**

**Wildlands** – Governor O'Malley's Administration bill created 9 new State-designated Wildlands and expanded 14 of the existing 29 Wildlands. The newly-designated 21,887 acres represent an increase of approximately 50% in the amount of State-owned lands protected by law to retain forever their wild character for future generations.

[SB 336 / HB 296](#)

**State Board of Foresters** – The [State Board of Foresters](#) licenses and regulates individuals who practice forestry in the State of Maryland. Licensed foresters apply, for compensation, scientific techniques to the protection, management, and use of trees. DNR supported successful legislation to keep the Board in existence until July 1, 2025.

[HB 511](#)

### **Managing Maryland's Wildlife and Fisheries**

**Recreational Incentives Pilot Program** – Legislation proposed by DNR establishes a pilot program to determine whether offering discounted fishing and hunting licenses to individuals who have not held a recreational fishing or hunting license for at least three years, will increase license sales. [SB 93](#)

**Fisheries Management** – Proposed legislation that would have undermined the Department's oyster restoration efforts was replaced by cooperative pilot programs.

[SB 466 / HB 1155, SB 1111 / HB 1551](#)

Proposed legislation that would have interfered with recent improvements in management of the striped bass fishery was prevented from passing. [HB 1104, SB 591](#)

### **Protecting Maryland Citizens in our Waterways**

**Impaired Boating** – Legislation proposed by DNR would have increased the coverage of "operating under the influence" laws to include nonmotorized sailboats, canoes and kayaks as required by U.S. Coast Guard regulations. The legislation failed on a tie vote in a Senate committee. [SB 94](#)

## Protecting Maryland's Vulnerable Coastal Areas

**Climate Adaptation** – Legislation proposed by DNR requires State agencies to consider the risk of coastal flooding and sea level rise when making funding decisions for new capital projects. The legislation codifies in law Governor O'Malley's Climate Change and "Coast Smart" Construction [Executive Order 01.01.2012.29](#) and creates a Coast Smart Council to establish specific criteria for the siting and design of new or reconstructed State structures. [HB 615](#)

## Protecting Personal Identity Information

**Social Security Numbers** – DNR supported legislation that will allow collection of only the last 4 digits instead of the entire Social Security number from applicants for recreational hunting and fishing licenses. [HB 1174](#)

A thorough summary of actions taken during the legislative session is contained in [The 90 Day Report](#) written by the Department of Legislative Services. Part K of the report describes actions related to natural resources, environment and agriculture. Part A includes the FY 2015 budget. Detailed budget information is contained in the bills that enacted the fiscal year 2015 operating and capital budgets ([SB 170](#) and [SB 171](#)), the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2014 (BRFA – [SB 172](#)), and the [Joint Chairmen's Report](#) on the Fiscal 2015 State Operating Budget (SB 170) and the State Capital Budget (SB 171) and Related Recommendations.

Texts of bills and fiscal notes, recordings of hearings and floor debates, and other detailed information on legislation and issues related to the Maryland General Assembly are available online at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmlst.aspx?tab=home>.

During the Maryland General Assembly's 2014 session 2,693 pieces of legislation were introduced and 814 (30%) were passed by both the Senate and the House of Delegates. DNR's Legislative Office tracked 335 bills and provided 150 bill reports expressing support of or opposition to individual bills or providing background information. DNR provided information to the Department of Legislative Services for 136 Fiscal and Policy Notes.

Our shared success during the 2014 legislative session would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the many people throughout DNR who provided critical assistance and expertise. Special thanks to Legislative Assistant Eileen Mosley and Legislative Fellow Sean McTamany, who were indispensable members of our legislative team.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department's Legislative Office at 410-260-8107 with any questions or comments.

Richard D. Norling  
Legislative Director  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## **NEW LAWS OF INTEREST TO DNR**

### **Administration and Departmental Bills**

**HB 296 Natural Resources – Wildlands – Designation of New Wildlands** – Expands 14 of the State’s 29 existing Wildlands, and creates 9 additional Wildlands for a total of 21,887 additional acres of State-owned lands as Wildlands, an increase of approximately 50 percent. In total about 1 percent of Maryland’s total land area will forever retain its wild character for future generations. Wildlands FAQ, descriptions and maps are located online at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/wildland.asp>. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 615 Coast Smart Council** – Establishes a Coast Smart Council in the Department of Natural Resources to require State agency capital projects to be constructed in accordance with specified siting and design criteria established by the Council. This builds on Governor O’Malley’s Climate Change and “Coast Smart” Construction [Executive Order 01.01.2012.29](#) by codifying in law its requirements on State agency construction projects. Maryland has approximately 1000 existing state-owned facilities within the mapped 100-year flood zone and over 450 existing facilities within areas likely to be impacted by sea level rise over the next 100 years. Report due on or before June 30, 2015. Effective June 1, 2014.

**SB 93 Natural Resources – Recreational Incentives Pilot Program** – Establishes a three-year pilot program to determine whether offering discounted fishing and hunting licenses will increase license sales to individuals who have not held a recreational fishing or hunting license for at least three years. The bill requires DNR to develop a plan (including marketing strategy) to implement the program, and limits the incentive discounts to no more than 50 percent of the underlying license fee. Effective October 1, 2014.

### **Other Bills of Interest to DNR**

**SB 231 Bow Hunting – Possession of Handguns for Protection** – Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from restricting specified licensed bow hunters from openly carrying a handgun under specified circumstances. Effective October 1, 2014.

**SB 259 Agriculture – Easements – Renewable Energy Generation Facilities** – Requires an Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement approved for purchase by the Board of Public Works after June 30, 2014, to authorize the landowner to request approval, under specified circumstances, to use the land subject to the easement for the generation of electricity by a facility utilizing an authorized renewable energy source under specified circumstances. Authorizes the written request of a landowner to be approved by the MALPF to amend a specified easement. Effective July 1, 2014.

**SB 309 Montgomery County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone MC 5-14** – Establishes for archery hunters in Montgomery County a safety zone of 100 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. Effective July 1, 2014.

**SB 471 Washington County – Off-Road Vehicle Trails – Prohibition of Establishment on Sideling Hill** – Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from establishing an off-road vehicle trail on State-owned property located at Sideling Hill in Washington County, including the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area and specified other areas and requires the Department to review and evaluate, regarding its suitability for Wildlands preservation, the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area and State-owned property in the areas of Sideling Hill. Effective October 1, 2014.

**SB 472 Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County – Sunday Hunting** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in Allegany County, Garrett County, or Washington County to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except migratory game birds and wetland game birds, on a Sunday on specified public and private land during the open season for that game bird or game mammal. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting. Effective July 1, 2014.

**SB 473 Frederick County – Deer Hunting – Sundays** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on specified property from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive, in Frederick County subject to specified provisions of law. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting. Effective July 1, 2014.

**SB 698 Criminal Procedure – Electronic Device Location Information – Order** – Authorizes a court to issue a specified order authorizing and directing a law enforcement officer to obtain specified location information from a specified electronic device under specified circumstances and provides requirements for the order. Contains language allowing the Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network (MLEIN) to continue using signals from vessel identification and monitoring systems to locate vessels. Effective October 1, 2014.

**SB 827 / HB 1124 Criminal Law – Possession of Dangerous or Wild Animals** – Alters the list of entities and individuals to which specified provisions relating to dangerous or wild animals, including a prohibition on importing, offering for sale, trading, bartering, possessing, breeding, or exchanging specified animals, do not apply. Authorizes holders of a specified federal exhibitor's license to possess or breed specified animals if conditions are met and requires a local animal control authority to take steps to find long-term placement of seized animals. Effective July 1, 2014.

**SB 966 Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish a program in Charles County and St. Mary's County to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population in those counties; requires the Department to give applicants who hold a Deer Management Permit priority in acceptance to the program; authorizes the Department to terminate the program under specified circumstances; requires the Department to provide a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2016. Effective July 1, 2014 and remains effective for 3 years.

**[HB 58](#) Talbot County – Chesapeake Bay Critical Area – Prosecution or Civil Suit for Certain Violations** – Requires a criminal prosecution or a suit for a civil penalty for a violation of specified local laws relating to environmental protection or natural resource conservation occurring in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area in Talbot County to be brought within 3 years after the local authorities in fact knew or reasonably should have known of the violation. Effective October 1, 2014.

**[HB 118](#) Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters** – Establishes the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters, staffed by the Department. The bill requires the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2015. Effective July 1, 2014.

**[HB 154](#) Natural Resources – Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission – Membership** – Increases the number of members on the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission to 16 and requires that one member of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission be a specified member of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission. Effective July 1, 2014.

**[HB 207](#) State Capital Projects – High Performance Buildings – Maryland Green Building Council** – Alters the definition of a “high performance building” as it applies to specified provisions of law relating to State capital projects and requires the Maryland Green Building Council to establish a process for receiving public input. Effective October 1, 2014.

**[HB 451](#) Neighborhood Business Development Program – Financial Assistance for Food Deserts** – Alters the purposes of the Neighborhood Business Development Program to include helping to create specified small businesses and other food-related enterprises in food deserts and requires the Business Development Program in the Neighborhood Business Development Program to provide financial assistance to projects in food deserts. Effective October 1, 2014.

**[HB 511](#) State Board of Foresters** – Keeps the State Board of Foresters in existence until July 1, 2025. The [State Board of Foresters](#) licenses and regulates individuals who practice forestry in the State of Maryland. Licensed foresters apply, for compensation, scientific techniques to the protection, management, and use of trees. Effective July 1, 2014.

**[HB 582](#) Licensed Tree Experts – Notification** – Requires a licensed tree expert to provide notice to the Department of Natural Resources of the status of any company that engages in the business or work of the treatment, care, or removal of trees under the tree expert’s license and of the liability and property damage insurance and workers’ compensation insurance carried by each company. Effective October 1, 2014.

**[HB 629](#) Environmentally Preferable Procurement – Maryland Green Purchasing Committee** – Alters the membership of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee and requires the Committee to develop and publish, and State units thereafter to adopt, specifications that will enable implementation of environmentally preferable purchasing. Repeals the 5% price preference for purchase of products with recycled content, and the annual agency reports to MDE about purchases of products with recycled content. Requires annual agency reports to DGS about purchases of environmentally preferable products. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 660 Forests and Parks – Public Recreation on Private and State-Owned Land – Off-Highway Vehicles** – Expands a liability exemption for a landowner who agrees to the use of a defined part of the landowner’s property for cross-country skiing or snowmobiling in Garrett County to apply to the use of an off-highway vehicle anywhere in the state. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 786 Sales and Use Tax – Tax-Free Weekend – Exemption for Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Lights** – Adds light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs to the list of Energy Star products exempt from the sales and use tax during President’s Day weekend each year. Effective July 1, 2014 and remains effective for 3 years.

**HB 878 State Highway Administration – Compost and Compost-Based Products – Specification** – Establishes that the use of compost and compost-based products in State highway construction projects is a best management practice for specified pollution mitigation strategies and requires the State Highway Administration to establish a specification for the acquisition and use of compost and compost-based products for specified pollution mitigation strategies on or before December 30, 2014. Effective July 1, 2014.

**HB 1148 Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on Harvest Data** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery and requires the study to examine relevant issues. The Department must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2014. Effective June 1, 2014.

**HB 1153 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Operations – Nuisance Actions – Exemption** – Expands the application of specified provisions of law relating to the protection of agricultural operations from nuisance actions under specified circumstances to apply to specified commercial fishing and seafood operations. Exempts specified commercial fishing and seafood operations from nuisance lawsuits and authorizes an appeal of a local agency’s decision on a nuisance complaint against a commercial fishing or seafood operation to a circuit court. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 1174 Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications – Disclosure of Information** – Amends recreational hunting and fishing license statutes to require collection of only the last 4 digits of applicants’ Social Security numbers instead of the entire number. Partially effective June 1, 2014 and remainder effective upon receipt of federal waiver.

**HB 1312 Program Open Space Sites – Public Access** – Authorizes a local governing body to use specified Program Open Space funds for the provision of public access to specified land. Requires the Department of Natural Resources to consider the feasibility of providing specified public access for specified Program Open Space projects and requires specified subdivisions to consider the feasibility of providing public access for specified Program Open Space projects. Effective October 1, 2014.

## **Bills of General Interest**

**SB 338 Public Safety – Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board – Established –** Establishes the Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board in the Department of Information Technology to coordinate the operation and maintenance of a Statewide Public Safety Interoperability Radio System for first responders. DNR and NRP are not official members of the Board. Effective June 1, 2014.

**SB 644 State Government – Open Data Policy – Council on Open Data –** Establishes a Council on Open Data with the Secretary of Natural Resources as a member; chair is Secretary of Information Technology, vice chair is Director of the Governor’s StateStat Office. Establishes a State policy that open data be machine readable and released to the public in specified ways. Requires the Council to promote the policy on open data by providing specified guidance and policy recommendations, advocating for specified practices, and making recommendations on the purchasing of specified data processing devices, systems, or software. Effective June 1, 2014.

**SB 781 Environment – Recycling – Special Events –** Requires a county to address the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from special events in the county’s recycling plan, and to revise its recycling plan by October 1, 2015. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 40 State Government – Commemorative Months – American Indian Heritage Month –** Requires the Governor annually to proclaim November as American Indian Heritage Month and requires the proclamation to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 53 Public Records – Provision of Copies, Printouts, and Photographs – Required –** Requires a custodian of a public record to provide a copy, printout, or photograph of a public record to an applicant under specified circumstances. Authorizes a person or governmental unit that is not provided with a copy, printout, or photograph of a public record to file a complaint with a specified circuit court, and authorizes the court to take specified action regarding the failure to provide a copy, printout, or photograph of a public record. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 1025 State Personnel – Contractual Employees – Filling of Vacant Positions –** Authorizes specified appointing authorities to select specified candidates from a list of contractual employees. Effective July 1, 2014.

**HB 1040 State Personnel – Disciplinary Appeal and Grievance Procedure Documents – Electronic Transmission –** Authorizes the electronic transmission of disciplinary appeal documents and decisions to appropriate parties; requires the Secretary of Budget and Management to make forms for initiating and processing grievances available on the Department of Budget and Management’s Web site; and authorizes the electronic transmission of copies of grievances and dispositions. Effective October 1, 2014.

## **NEW REPORTS REQUIRED FROM THE BUDGET PROCESS**

**[Joint Chairmen's Report](#)** – *Operating Budget, April 2014, page 65*

**Committee Narrative**

**K00A03.01 Wildlife and Heritage Service**

**Deer Population Management Report:** The budget committees are concerned that overabundant deer populations are causing increasing numbers of problems throughout the State in all types of areas including urban, suburban, and rural. The problems include collisions and property damage of vehicles, and damage to farm crops, yards, gardens, and ecologically sensitive areas. Therefore, the budget committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) consult with a wide variety of stakeholders, other states, and outside experts to identify and evaluate all possible techniques for controlling and reducing deer populations to acceptable levels in areas of the State determined to have an overabundant deer population. In addition, the budget committees request that DNR report by December 31, 2014, on the results of its evaluations and actions that DNR will take to reduce deer populations to acceptable levels.

**Information Request**

Deer population management report

**Author**

DNR

**Due Date**

December 31, 2014

**[Joint Chairmen's Report](#)** – *Capital Budget, April 2014, page 222*

**Fisheries Service**

**Committee Narrative**

**Oyster Restoration Program Report:** The committees are concerned that there is insufficient information available about the progress of the Oyster Restoration Program. Therefore, the committees request that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submit a report on (1) the overall scope of Oyster Restoration Program work by activity (substrate, seeding, and monitoring), fund source, funding amount, fiscal year, and sanctuary; and (2) an integrated review of oyster sanctuary monitoring data from the annual Fall Oyster Survey, patent tong survey, and sonar survey as it relates to the tributary and reef level restoration goals. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2014.

**Information Request**

Oyster Restoration Program report

**Author**

DNR

**Due Date**

December 1, 2014

**Section 37 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending**

SECTION 37. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of the Environment provide two reports on Chesapeake Bay restoration spending. The reports shall be drafted subject to the concurrence of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) in terms of both electronic format to be used and data to be included. The scope of the reports is as follows:

- (1) Chesapeake Bay restoration operating and capital expenditures by agency, fund type, and particular fund source based on programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration for the fiscal 2014 actual, fiscal 2015 working appropriation, and fiscal 2016 allowance, which is to be included as an appendix in the fiscal 2016 budget volumes and submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS; and
- (2) 2-year milestones funding by agency, best management practice, fund type, and particular fund source along with associated nutrient and sediment reductions for fiscal 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, which is to be submitted electronically in disaggregated form to DLS.

**Explanation:** This language expresses the intent that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) provide at the time of the fiscal 2016 budget submission information on (1) Chesapeake Bay restoration spending for programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration; and (2) two-year milestones funding.

**Information Request**

Summary of Chesapeake Bay restoration spending for programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration, and two-year milestones expenditures

**Authors**

DBM  
DNR  
MDE

**Due Date**

Fiscal 2016 State budget Submission

**Section 42 Historical and Projected Chesapeake Bay Restoration Spending**

SECTION 42. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Maryland Department of Planning, the Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Department of Budget and Management provide a report to the budget committees by December 1, 2014, on Chesapeake Bay restoration spending including:

(1) to the extent practicable, fiscal 2000 to 2014 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reduction; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;

(2) projected fiscal 2015 to 2025 annual spending by fund, fund source, program, and State government agency; associated nutrient and sediment reductions; and the impact on living resources and ambient water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and “chlorophyll a” for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries; and

(3) an overall framework discussing the needed regulations, revenues, laws, and administrative actions and their impacts on individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses by year from fiscal 2015 to 2025 in order to reach the calendar 2025 requirement of having all best management practices in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

**Explanation:** This language expresses the intent that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) provide a report by December 1, 2014, on historical and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending and associated impacts and the overall framework to meet the calendar 2025 requirement of having all best management practices in place to meet water quality standards for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

**Information Request**

Historical and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending

**Authors**

MDP  
DNR  
MDA  
MDE  
DBM

**Due Date**

December 1, 2014

# **REPORT OF INTEREST TO NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE**

***Joint Chairmen's Report*** – *Operating Budget, April 2014, page 92*  
**Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund**  
**Committee Narrative**

## **Review Maryland State Police Aviation Command Mission Data and Collection**

**Methodology:** Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) helicopter mission data is captured at the central dispatch facility known as the System Communications Center (SYSCOM). Every mission received is assigned a mission code and recorded. MSPAC provides summary mission data for the Managing for Results (MFR) sections of the Governor's budget books every year, as well as a breakdown of mission data upon request. In recent years, mission data provided in the MFR and mission data provided directly by MSPAC has not been consistent. MSPAC currently receives 80% funding from the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund and 20% from the general fund based on the ratio of medically oriented missions to non-medical missions conducted. However, without accurate, consistent mission data, policymakers cannot make determinations on appropriate allocation of resources, number of helicopters needed, or base deployment, and cannot adequately anticipate the effects of any future policy decisions. Therefore, the budget committees request the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) to review and report, by January 1, 2015, actual MSPAC mission data for fiscal 2006 through 2013 to determine its accuracy, including (1) scene Medevac; (2) interfacility Medevac; (3) law enforcement; (4) search and rescue; (5) support; (6) homeland security; (7) disaster assessment; and (8) Natural Resource Police missions. In addition, the budget committees request OLA to review the collection methodology used by MSPAC to record and report mission data to determine its effectiveness in collecting and providing accurate data.

## **Information Request**

Report of MSPAC mission data for fiscal 2006 through 2013

## **Author**

OLA

## **Due Date**

January 1, 2015

## LANGUAGE AFFECTING FUTURE BUDGETS

### **SB 172 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2014**

#### **Article – Natural Resources**

#### **5–212.(g)**

(1) [The] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Fund may be used only for:

- (i) 1. Purchasing and managing in the name of the State lands suitable for forest culture, reserves, watershed protection, State parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments, parkways, and State recreational reserves; and  
2. Helping to offset the costs to the Forest and Park Service for developing and implementing a forest health emergency contingency program under § 5–307 of this title;
- (ii) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, payments to counties in the amount of:
  1. If the State forest or park reserve comprises less than 10% of the total land area of the county, a sum equal to 15% of the revenue derived from the State forest or park reserve located in that county; and
  2. If the State forest or park reserve comprises 10% or more of the total land area of the county, a sum equal to 25% of the revenue derived from the State forest or park reserve located in that county; and

(iii) Administrative costs calculated in accordance with § 1–103(b)(2) of this article.

(2) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013 only, the payments under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection shall be based only on the revenue derived from sales of timber.

**(3) FROM REVENUES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION THAT ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO MARYLAND PARK SERVICE OPERATIONS, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MARYLAND PARK SERVICE EQUAL TO:**

- (I) AT LEAST 60% OF THE REVENUES, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016;**
- (II) AT LEAST 80% OF THE REVENUES, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017; AND**
- (III) 100% OF THE REVENUES, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.**

#### **Joint Chairmen’s Report – Operating Budget, April 2014. page 66**

#### **CHESAPEAKE AND COASTAL SERVICES**

#### **K00A14.02 Chesapeake and Coastal Services**

Add the following language to the special fund appropriation:

Further provided that it is the General Assembly’s intent that the Administration budget the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund for the fiscal 2014 actual, fiscal 2015 working appropriation, and the fiscal 2016 allowance and annually thereafter as a special fund appropriation in the Department of Natural Resources’ operating budget and reimbursable fund appropriation in the receiving agencies’ budgets. The amount budgeted should reflect the allocation in the annual work and expenditure plans required to be submitted with the annual budget under Section 8-2A-03(d) of the Natural Resources Article.

**Explanation:** This action expresses the Maryland General Assembly’s intent that the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund be budgeted in such a way that improves the ability to make year-to-year comparisons of funding in receiving agencies’ budgets.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST TO DNR THAT DID NOT BECOME LAW**

### **Bills DNR Supported**

**SB 94** **Vessels – Operating While Under the Influence of or Impaired by Alcohol or Drugs** – Sought to close a loophole exempting non-motorized vessels from state OUI boating laws. The U.S. Coast Guard notified the Department that current Maryland law does not comply with federal regulations that require OUI laws to apply to all vessels. Failed in Judicial Proceedings Committee on a 5-5 vote.

**SB 145 / HB 145** **Natural Resources – Fisheries Management – Regulations** – Clarifies DNR’s authority to issue public notices to take actions such as modification or closure of a fishery and specifies the types of actions that may be included in such public notices. SB 145 withdrawn by sponsor, HB 145 sent to summer study.

**SB 191 / HB 197** **Anne Arundel County – Deer Hunting – Sundays** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property in Anne Arundel County from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year. SB 191 failed in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee on a 5-5 vote.

**SB 530 / HB 931** **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Thermal Energy** – Alters the renewable energy portfolio standard for specified years; provides for thermal energy sources to be either Tier 1 thermal energy sources or Tier 2 thermal energy sources; requires an electricity supplier to meet the renewable energy portfolio standard by accumulating a specified amount of renewable energy credits and thermal renewable energy credits. HB 931 received unfavorable report (21-2) from Economic Matters Committee.

**SB 535** **Natural Gas Severance Tax and Impact Account** – Imposes a 2.5% severance tax on the production of natural gas from specified wells in the state. Not voted on by Budget and Taxation Committee.

**HB 671** **Sunday Hunting – Deer Bow Hunting Season** – Authorizes a person to hunt deer statewide on private property on any Sunday during the deer bow hunting season, subject to specified provisions of law. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 890** **Natural Resources – Deer Hunting – Sundays** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer statewide on private property on specified Sundays. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

### **Bills DNR Opposed**

**SB 44** **Agriculture – Noxious Weeds – Reed Grass** – Classifies reed grass (*phragmites australis*) as a noxious weed subject to investigation, abatement, eradication, and general

regulation under the direction of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Withdrawn by sponsor.

**SB 192 / HB 196 Anne Arundel County – Turkey Hunting – Fall Season** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish by regulation a fall turkey hunting season for the portion of Anne Arundel County lying south of MD Route 214. Withdrawn by sponsors.

**SB 308 / HB 139 Montgomery County – Law Enforcement Vehicles – Automated External Defibrillator MC 17-14** – Requires, in Montgomery County, a law enforcement agency’s vehicle used for patrol by a law enforcement officer who is a first responder and trained in the operation and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) to be equipped with an AED. Failed in Montgomery County Delegation by vote of 13-3.

**SB 360 Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Prohibition** – Prohibits a person from engaging in the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas in the State. Unfavorable report by Finance Committee (10-1).

**SB 466 / HB 1155 Oyster Dredging - Waters North of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Kent Narrows Bridge** – Authorizes a person to catch oysters by dredge in specified waters of the Chesapeake Bay north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Kent Narrows Bridge. Not voted on by either committee; DNR negotiated an agreement with watermen’s organizations.

**SB 745 / HB 1122 Shale Gas Drilling Safety Review Act of 2014** – Prohibits the Department of the Environment from issuing a permit for the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas until specified conditions are met. HB 1122 reported unfavorable by Environmental Matters Committee.

**SB 935 Department of Natural Resources Police – Transfer of Duties and Responsibilities to the Department of State Police** – Abolishes the Department of Natural Resources Police Force and transfers the duties and responsibilities to the Department of State Police. Not voted on by EHEA Committee.

**SB 1010 / HB 1473 Domestic Animals – Sterilization and Life-Sustaining Care of Cats – Determination of Dangerousness** – Provides that a law prohibiting a person who owns, possesses, or has custody of a domestic animal from dropping or leaving the animal on a road, in a public place, or on private property with the intent to abandon the animal does not apply to a person who is providing sterilization or life-sustaining care to a specified cat that is not owned or lacks visible owner identification. SB 1010 not voted on by Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**SB 1013 Public Utilities – Billing for Non-commodity Products and Services – Prohibition** – Prohibits a gas company or an electric company from billing its customers for non-commodity products and services. The bill appeared to negate the Environmental Trust Fund surcharge that funds the Power Plant Research Project (PPRP). Not voted on by Finance Committee.

**SB 1020 / HB 1483 Solar Farms – Construction Requirements – Exemptions** – Exempts a solar farm from the requirement to submit a grading and sediment control plan in order to obtain

a permit for grading or construction; exempts a solar farm from the requirement to submit a forest stand delineation and forest conservation plan in order to obtain a permit for grading or construction; and exempts a solar farm from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity before constructing a generating station if the solar farm meets specified requirements. Committee staff prepared several drafts of amendments; SB 1020 was not voted on by Finance Committee.

**[SB 1083](#) / [HB 1368](#) State Boat Act – Dealer’s License – Lienholder Exemption** – Exempts a holder of a lien created under Title 16, Subtitle 2 of the Commercial Law Article, including an auctioneer and a company known as a lien and recovery company, from specified licensing requirements solely for the purpose of selling vessels in accordance with Title 16 of the Commercial Law Article. SB 1083 withdrawn by sponsor.

**[SB 1111](#) / [HB 1551](#) Natural Resources – Fresh Oyster Shells – Purchase by County Oyster Committees** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to authorize county oyster committees to purchase annually up to 400,000 bushels of fresh oyster shells that have not gone through a hatchery for production of spat on the fresh oyster shell for placement on a public oyster fishery bottom. Not voted on by either committee. DNR offered additional fresh shell for a pilot project with watermen.

**[HB 123](#) Program Open Space – Use of Funds – Artificial Turf Surfaces** – Prohibits the use of specified funds under Program Open Space to build new or to replace specified athletic fields with artificial or synthetic turf surfaces. Reported unfavorable by Environmental Matters Committee (17-4).

**[HB 299](#) State Boat Act – Certificate of Number Fee – Altering Motor Horsepower for Fee Exemption** – Increases the motor horsepower of a specified vessel in order for the vessel to qualify for an exemption from the certificate of number fee. Withdrawn by sponsor.

**[HB 669](#) Harford County – Deer Muzzle Loader Season – January Days** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to include in the deer muzzle loader season a minimum of 2 days in January for the hunting of both antlered and antlerless deer in Harford County. Withdrawn by sponsor.

**[HB 675](#) / [HB 769](#) Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications – Disclosure of Information** – Establishes that the Department of Natural Resources may require an applicant to provide only specified information on an application for a recreational hunting or fishing license and alters the information that a request for information from a recreational hunting or fishing license application made by the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Natural Resources is required to contain. Environmental Matters Committee reported HB 1174 favorable instead of these bills.

**[HB 865](#) Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Rural Residential Drinking Water Protection Act** – Prohibits the Department of the Environment from issuing a permit for the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas within a radius of

3,280 feet from a drinking water well or within 3,280 feet of a drinking water supply reservoir or a surface water intake on a flowing stream. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 1013 Prince George’s County Board of Education – Public High Schools – Outdoor Synthetic Turf Fields PG 409-14** – Requires the Prince George’s County Board of Education to install an outdoor synthetic turf field at each public high school in the county during a specified period of time. Requires outdoor synthetic turf fields to be constructed for joint use and requires specified expenditures to be deemed eligible public school construction costs or capital improvement costs by the Interagency Committee on School Construction for specified purposes. Prince George’s County delegation voted amendments on March 14, not voted on by Appropriations Committee.

**HB 1104 Striped Bass Allocation – Individual Transferable Quotas – Prohibited** – Prohibits, as of January 1, 2015, the Department of Natural Resources from allocating any of the state’s commercial quota for the striped bass gill net and hook and line fishery through the individual transferable quota system or another substantially similar system. Withdrawn by sponsor.

**HB 1367 Natural Resources – Forests, Parks, and Recreation Areas – Posted Notice of Safety Information** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to post a notice in a conspicuous location at each State forest, park, and recreational area that contains specified safety information. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 1547 Hunting Licenses – Exemption for Retired Members of the Armed Forces** – Creates an exemption for a person who is a retired former member of the armed forces of the United States from the requirement to obtain a hunting license under specified circumstances and provides that the exemption applies only to hunting on specified farmland that is under specified ownership and requires a person who hunts under the exemption to possess a retired-military identification card, written permission to hunt during a specified time period from the property owner, and any required hunting stamps. Passed by House, not voted on by EHEA Committee.

**PG/MC 104-14 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Forest Conservation Act – Application to Infrastructure Maintenance Activities** – Exempts from Forest Conservation Act requirements any cutting or clearing of forest necessary for access to Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission infrastructure or otherwise associated with the rehabilitation or maintenance of Commission infrastructure. Withdrawn by WSSC after completion of MOU with DNR.

**PG/MC 105-14 Natural Resources – Roadside Trees – Maintenance of Public Utility Rights-of-Way, Water Lines, and Sewer Lines** – Prohibits a county or municipality from adopting a local law or ordinance for the planting, care, and protection of roadside trees that applies to emergency or mandated maintenance of public utility rights-of-way. Prohibits a county or municipality from adopting a local law or ordinance that applies to the cutting or clearing of public utility rights-of-way or land for the repair, rehabilitation, operation, inspection, reconstruction, or maintenance of water lines, sewer lines, and appurtenances. Withdrawn by WSSC after completion of MOU with DNR.

**HO. CO. 08-14 Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Hollofield Play Space** – Bond bill for funding unauthorized improvements in Patapsco State Park. Not pursued by Howard County delegation.

### **Other Bills**

**SB 437 / HB 618 Nonresident Recreational Fishing and Crabbing Licenses – Oyster Restoration Surcharge** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to require a nonresident to pay a surcharge in addition to any license fees imposed under specified laws and regulations for specified recreational fishing and crabbing licenses. SB 437 reported favorable by EHEA Committee (7-4) and later recommitted to the committee from the Senate floor.

**SB 591 Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Fishery – Allocation of Commercial Quota** – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to initially allocate an equal percentage of the state’s total commercial quota for the Chesapeake Bay striped bass gill net and hook and line fishery to each participant in the fishery. Unfavorable report (7-4) by EHEA Committee.

**SB 709 / HB 789 Income Tax Credit – Preservation and Conservation Easements** – Alters provisions of law concerning a credit against the State income tax for specified easements to allow an individual or a pass-through entity to claim the credit for an easement conveyed to the Maryland Environmental Trust, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, or the Department of Natural Resources under specified circumstances; provides that a grantor of an easement may transfer a specified tax credit by obtaining a specified certificate. SB 709 passed the Senate very late in the session, remained in House Rules Committee.

**SB 734 / HB 747 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Qualifying Biomass** – Limits the eligibility of qualifying biomass (“black liquor”) as a Tier 1 renewable source for the purposes of the renewable energy portfolio standard to qualifying biomass used at a generation unit that started commercial operation on or after January 1, 2005 and that achieves a total system efficiency of 65% or more. HB 747 reported unfavorable (14-10) by Economic Matters Committee.

**SJ 4 / HJ 6 Conowingo Dam – Sediment – Dredging** – Resolution urging the United States Congress to authorize and fund a specified project to dredge behind the Conowingo Dam in order to preserve the dam’s capability to block pollutants in the Susquehanna River from reaching the Chesapeake Bay. SJ 4 passed the Senate, was not voted on by House Rules Committee.

**HB 291 Natural Resources – Tree Experts – Prohibition** – Prohibits a licensed tree expert from supervising more than one company that provides tree expert services. Environmental Matters Committee moved HB 582 instead.

**HB 670 Archery Hunting – Safety Zone** – Establishes for archery hunters statewide a safety zone of 50 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. Reported unfavorable by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 672 Harford County – Sunday Hunting – Deer Bow Hunting Season** – Authorizes a person to hunt deer on private property in Harford County on any Sunday during the deer bow hunting season, subject to specified provisions of law. No letter from Harford County delegation.

**HB 673 Harford County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone** – Alters the size of the safety zone for archery hunters in Harford County within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. No letter from Harford County delegation.

**HB 759 Calvert County – Deer Hunting – Sundays** – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property in Calvert County from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive, subject to specified provisions of law. Passed House, not voted on by EHEA Committee.

**HB 860 Natural Resources – Baiting Deer – Restrictions** – Prohibits a person from using food, salt, or other mineral-based attractants for the purpose of attracting deer except under specified circumstances. Withdrawn by sponsor.

**HB 910 Water Quality Certification – Conowingo Dam – Required Studies** – Requires the Department of the Environment to require an applicant for a specified water quality certification to fund a specified study to determine the impact that the transport of specified sediment behind the Conowingo Dam may have on the Chesapeake Bay and specified other waters; requires the Department to require the applicant to fund a specified study on the costs and benefits of specified methods of managing specified sediment behind the Conowingo Dam. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 913 Food Fish and Shellfish – Labeling and Identification Requirements (Maryland Seafood Authenticity and Enforcement Act)** – Prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale within the State any food fish or shellfish unless the person identifies the species of the food fish or shellfish in a specified manner; requires that the species of a food fish or shellfish be identified by the common name provided in specified regulations or in a specified publication. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

**HB 1133 Calvert County and St. Mary’s County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone** – Establishes for archery hunters in Calvert County and St. Mary’s County a safety zone of 100 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. Passed House, not voted on by EHEA Committee.

**HB 1402 Agricultural Transfer Tax - Distribution to Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund** – Increases from \$200,000 to \$300,000 the maximum amount of specified tax proceeds required to be deposited by the Comptroller into the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund and alters the parcels of land for which specified counties are required to remit agricultural transfer tax proceeds to the Comptroller to include parcels of land that are at least 90% woodland. Withdrawn by sponsor; summer study workgroup established to report by December 1, 2014.

## **DNR FOLLOWUP ACTIONS WITH TARGET COMPLETION DATES**

**SB 93 Natural Resources – Recreational Incentives Pilot Program** – Establishes a three-year pilot program to determine whether offering discounted fishing and hunting licenses will increase license sales to individuals who have not held a recreational fishing or hunting license for at least three years. Requires DNR to develop a plan (including marketing strategy) to implement the program, and limits the incentive discounts to no more than 50 percent of the underlying license fee.

Action Item: Convene initial planning meeting with OCM, FS, WHS, IT, LRS and assign implementation responsibilities.

Staff: Deputy Secretary

Target Date: June 1, 2014

Action Items: Develop plan including marketing strategy to implement the pilot program.

Staff:

Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Items: Discuss draft plan with stakeholders including Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission (July 22); ask for input.

Staff: Fisheries Service (FS) and Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: August 1, 2014

Action Item: Start managing promotion and marketing of offers, measurement of results, and modification of offers to find the most effective offer; draft regulations if required by the plan or needed to implement.

Staff: Fisheries Service (FS) and Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) with OCM, IT, and LRS

Target Date: October 1, 2014

Action Item: Deliver report to the General Assembly on operation and results of the pilot program.

Staff:

Target Date: September 30, 2017

**SB 145 / HB 145 Natural Resources – Fisheries Management – Regulations** – Clarifies DNR's authority to issue public notices to take actions such as modification or closure of a fishery and specifies the types of actions that may be included in such public notices. SB 145 withdrawn by sponsor, HB 145 sent to summer study.

Action Item: Work with industry on summer study of the issue.

Staff: Fisheries Service (FS)

Target Date: December 1, 2014

**SB 231 Bow Hunting – Possession of Handguns for Protection** – Prohibits the Department from restricting persons with a carry permit from carrying handguns for personal safety while bow hunting in Region A.

Action Items: Update regulations, hunting guide, and web pages.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

**SB 309 Montgomery County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone MC 5-14** – Establishes for archery hunters in Montgomery County a safety zone of 100 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances.

Action Items: Update hunting guide and web pages.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: July 1, 2014

**SB 338 Public Safety – Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board – Established** – Establishes the Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board in the Department of Information Technology to coordinate the operation and maintenance of a Statewide Public Safety Interoperability Radio System for first responders. DNR and NRP are not official members of the Board.

Action Item: Establish informal liaison to the Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board.

Staff: Information Technology (IT) with NRP

Target Date: June 1, 2014

**SB 466 / HB 1155 Oyster Dredging - Waters North of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Kent Narrows Bridge** – Authorizes a person to catch oysters by dredge in specified waters of the Chesapeake Bay north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Kent Narrows Bridge. Bills not passed; DNR negotiated an agreement with watermen's organizations.

Action Item: Work with industry partners to continue implementing the agreement.

Staff: Fisheries Service (FS)

Target Dates: several

**SB 471 Washington County – Off-Road Vehicle Trails – Prohibition of Establishment on Sideling Hill** – Prohibits the Department from establishing an off-road vehicle trail on State-owned property located at Sideling Hill in Washington County, including the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area and specified other areas. Requires the Department to review and evaluate those areas regarding suitability for preservation as Wildlands.

Action Item: Update regulations if necessary.

Staff: Forest Service (MFS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

Action Item: Evaluate Sideling Hill suitability for potential Wildlands designation.  
Staff: Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP)  
Target Date: October 1, 2014

**SB 472 Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County – Sunday Hunting –** Authorizes the Department to allow a person in Allegany, Garrett, or Washington Counties to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except migratory game birds and wetland game birds, on a Sunday on private or designated public land during the open season for that game bird or game mammal. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting.

Action Items: Decide what Sundays to propose for hunting of deer on private property; decide what Sundays if any to propose for hunting of other species on private property; decide what areas of public land, if any, may be open for Sunday hunting and on what Sundays; update regulations, hunting guide, and web pages.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)  
Target Date: September 1, 2014

**SB 473 Frederick County – Deer Hunting – Sundays –** Authorizes the Department to allow a person in Frederick County to hunt deer on a Sunday on private or designated public land. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting.

Action Items: Decide what Sundays to propose for hunting of deer on private property; decide what areas of public land, if any, may be open for Sunday hunting and on what Sundays; update regulations, hunting guide, and web pages.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)  
Target Date: September 1, 2014

**SB 644 State Government – Open Data Policy – Council on Open Data –** Establishes a Council on Open Data with the Secretary of Natural Resources as a member. Chair is Secretary of Information Technology, vice chair is Director of the Governor’s StateStat Office. Establishes a State policy that open data be machine readable and released to the public in specified ways. Requires the Council to promote the open data policy.

Action Item: Provide staff support and departmental implementation.  
Staff: Information Technology (IT)  
Target Date: June 1, 2014

**SB 781 Environment – Recycling – Special Events –** Requires a county to address collection and recycling of recyclable materials from special events in the county’s recycling plan, and to revise its recycling plan by October 1, 2015.

Action Item: Coordinate with counties and lead by example by recycling at special events.  
Staff: Maryland Park Service (MPS)  
Target Date: October 1, 2014

**SB 966 Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting** – Requires the Department to establish a program in Charles and St. Mary's Counties to train rifle shooters to hunt deer. Authorizes shotgun deer hunting January through March in those counties. Authorizes holders of Deer Management Permits to hunt deer on State-owned agricultural lands.

Action Items: Decide how to implement the bill's requirements; update regulations, hunting guide, and web pages.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: December 1, 2014

Action Item: Prepare maps of State-owned lands with ag leases, trails and other amenities, in Charles and St. Mary's County.

Staff: Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP)

Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Item: Deliver report to General Assembly on implementation of the rifle shooter training program.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: December 1, 2016

**HB 40 State Government – Commemorative Months – American Indian Heritage Month** – Requires the Governor annually to proclaim November as American Indian Heritage Month and requires the proclamation to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Action Item: Plan appropriate events to commemorate American Indian Heritage Month each November.

Staff: Maryland Park Service (MPS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 53 Public Records – Provision of Copies, Printouts, and Photographs – Required** – Requires a custodian of a public record to provide a copy, printout, or photograph of a public record to an applicant under specified circumstances.

Action Items: Update policy, regulations, forms, and web pages if necessary.

Staff: Office of Communications (OCM)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 118 Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters** – Establishes the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters.

Action Item: Identify and recommend to Governor for appointment persons from organizations listed in the bill.

Staff: Deputy Secretary, Resource Assessment Service (RAS) with support from CCS and FS

Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Item: Provide staff support to the Task Force  
Staff: Resource Assessment Service (RAS) with support from CCS and FS  
Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Item: Deliver report of findings to the General Assembly  
Staff: Task Force  
Target Date: January 1, 2015

**HB 154 Natural Resources – Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission – Membership** – Adds a member of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission.

Action Item: Recommend to the Governor a member of TFAC to serve on SFAC.  
Staff: Fisheries Service (FS)  
Target Date: July 1, 2014

**HB 270 General Provisions Article** – Creates a new General Provisions Article in the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Action Item: Update references in regulations and other documents to sections of Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act.  
Staff: Office of Communications (OCM) with OAG  
Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 296 Natural Resources – Wildlands – Designation of New Wildlands** – Expands 14 of the State's 29 existing Wildlands, and creates 9 additional Wildlands for a total of 21,887 additional acres of Wildlands.

Action Items: Update regulations, maps and web pages  
Staff: Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP, WHS, MFS, MPS)  
Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 582 Licensed Tree Experts – Notification** – Requires a licensed tree expert to provide notice to the Department of the status of any company that engages in the business or work of the treatment, care, or removal of trees under the tree expert's license and of the liability and property damage insurance and workers' compensation insurance carried by each company.

Action Items: Update regulations, forms, web pages and internal procedures.  
Staff: Forest Service  
Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 615 Coast Smart Council** – Establishes a Coast Smart Council in the Department to require State agency capital projects to be constructed in accordance with specified siting and design criteria established by the Council.

Action Item: Identify initial members of the Council, including 5 persons for the Governor to appoint to represent local government, environmental and business interests.

Staff: Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS)

Target Date: June 1, 2014

Action Item: Adopt initial siting and design criteria

Staff: Coast Smart Council

Target Date: June 30, 2015

**HB 629 Environmentally Preferable Procurement – Maryland Green Purchasing Committee** – Alters the membership of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee and requires the Committee to develop and publish, and State units thereafter to adopt, specifications that will enable implementation of environmentally preferable purchasing. Repeals the 5% price preference for purchase of products with recycled content.

Action Items: Update procedures, forms, and procurement guidance to reflect repeal of the 5% price preference for purchase of products with recycled content and other changes made by the bill.

Staff: Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

Action Item: Remove from the list of required reports the annual report to MDE about purchases of products with recycled content.

Staff: Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

Action Item: Deliver first annual report to DGS about purchases of environmentally preferable products

Staff: Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)

Target Date: September 1, 2015

**HB 1025 State Personnel – Contractual Employees – Filling of Vacant Positions** – Authorizes specified appointing authorities to select specified candidates from a list of contractual employees.

Action Item: Update personnel processes if necessary.

Staff: Human Resource Services (HRS)

Target Date: July 1, 2014

**HB 1040 State Personnel – Disciplinary Appeal and Grievance Procedure Documents – Electronic Transmission** – Authorizes the electronic transmission of disciplinary appeal documents and decisions to appropriate parties. Authorizes the electronic transmission of copies of grievances and dispositions.

Action Item: Update personnel processes as necessary.

Staff: Human Resource Services (HRS)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 1148 Recreational Striped Bass Fishery – Study on Harvest Data** – Requires the Department to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery, including relevant issues. Report of findings and recommendations is due on or before December 1, 2014.

Action Item: Conduct study of ways to obtain more accurate recreational striped bass harvest data and deliver report to General Assembly.

Staff: Fisheries Service

Target Date: December 1, 2014

**HB 1174 Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications – Disclosure of Information** – Amends recreational hunting and fishing license statutes to require collection of only the last 4 digits of applicants' Social Security numbers instead of the entire number. Partially effective June 1, 2014 and remainder effective upon receipt of federal waiver.

Action Item: Assist DHR if needed in filing the request for a federal waiver

Staff: Mission Support

Target Date: June 1, 2014

Action Item: Get COMPASS software ready to “throw the switch” to 4-digit Social Security number for recreational license applicants when the waiver is received.

Staff: Information Technology (IT)

Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Items: Get modified regulations, forms, web pages and public outreach materials ready for rollout immediately after the waiver is received.

Staff: Licensing & Registration Service (LRS), FS, WHS

Target Date: July 1, 2014

Action Items: “Throw the switch” on COMPASS for 4-digit Social Security numbers; roll out modified regulations, forms, web pages and public outreach materials.

Staff: Information Technology (IT), Licensing & Registration Service (LRS), FS, WHS

Target Date: upon receipt of federal waiver

**HB 1312 Program Open Space Sites – Public Access** – Authorizes a local governing body to use specified Program Open Space funds for the provision of public access to specified land. Requires the Department to consider the feasibility of providing specified public access for specified Program Open Space projects.

Action Items: Update web pages, Stewardship review, and other information if necessary.

Staff: Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP)

Target Date: October 1, 2014

**HB 1402 Agricultural Transfer Tax - Distribution to Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund** – Expands the parcels for which the transfer tax goes to the Mel Noland Woodland

Incentives Fund from 100% wooded to include those at least 90% wooded, and increases the maximum amount that goes into the Fund from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Withdrawn by sponsor; summer study workgroup established to report by December 1, 2014.

Action Items: Participate in the summer study workgroup.

Staff: Forest Service (MFS) with Secretary Gill.

Due Date: December 1, 2014

**SB 170 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2015) section 37 and  
Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2014, page 175**

Action Item: Prepare and deliver report on Chesapeake Bay restoration spending for programs that have over 50% of their activities directly related to Chesapeake Bay restoration, and two-year milestones expenditures.

Staff: Chesapeake and Coastal Services (CCS) with FAS, DBM, MDE

Target Date: December 1, 2014 (with FY 2016 budget submission)

**SB 170 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2015) section 42 and  
Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2014, page 181**

Action Item: Prepare and deliver report on historical and projected Chesapeake Bay restoration spending.

Staff: Chesapeake and Coastal Services (CCS) with FAS, MDP, MDA, MDE, DBM

Target Date: December 1, 2014

**SB 172 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2014  
Natural Resources Article section 5–212(g)**

Action Item: Redistribute funds to meet the requirement that Park Service receive 60% of Forest and Park Reserve Fund revenues generated from parks in the FY 2016 budget.

Staff: Financial and Administrative Services (FAS) with Maryland Park Service (MPS)

Target Date: September 1, 2014

**Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2014, page 65**

Action Item: Prepare and deliver Deer Population Management Report.

Staff: Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS)

Target Date: December 31, 2014

**Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2014, page 66**

Action Item: Budget the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund as a special fund in DNR operating budget, amounts consistent with the annual work and expenditure plans submitted with the budget request.

Staff: Chesapeake and Coastal Services (CCS) with FAS

Target Date: September 1, 2014

**Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2014, page 92**

Action Item: Monitor and assist Office of Legislative Audits preparation of report on Maryland State Police Aviation Command

Staff: Natural Resources Police (NRP)

Target Date: January 1, 2015

**Joint Chairmen's Report – Capital Budget, April 2014, page 222**

Action Item: Prepare and deliver report on Oyster Restoration Program scope and review.

Staff: Fisheries Service (FS)

Target Date: December 1, 2014

**REPORTS REQUIRED FROM DNR TO THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, THE GOVERNOR, OR THE PUBLIC**

| Due       | Frequency                     | Report  | To                   | Impetus                |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| 6/1/2014  | annual                        | Forest Stewardship  | GOV                  | EO 01.01.2004.21       |
| 6/30/2014 | annual                        | Aquaculture Advancement                                   | GOV/EHE/ENV          | NR 4-11A-03.2(c)(1)(i) |
| 6/30/2014 | annual                        | Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund                       | EHE/ENV              | NR 5-307(j)            |
| 7/1/2014  | annual                        | Forest Conservation Report                                | EHE/ENV              | NR 5-1613              |
| 7/1/2014  | annual                        | Nutria Management Plan Implementation                     | GA                   | NR 10-202.1(c)         |
| 7/1/2014  | annual                        | Reforestation Report                                      | EHE/ENV              | NR 5-103(h)            |
| 7/1/2014  | every 2 years                 | Power Plants Cumulative Report                            | public               | NR 3-304(4)            |
| 8/1/2014  | August 1, 2014, 2015 and 2016 | Vessel Excise Tax Cap                                     | GA                   | 2013 Ch 80 Sec 3 HB 90 |
| 8/31/2014 | annual                        | Chesapeake Bay & Endangered Species Fund                  | GA                   | NR 1-706               |
| 9/1/2014  | annual                        | Land Trust Grant Fund                                     | GOV/B&T/APP/DLS      | NR 3-2A-14             |
| 9/30/2014 | annual                        | procurement contracts to MBEs                             | Jt C Fair Practices+ | SF 14-305              |
| 10/1/2014 | annual                        | Lands Closed to Hunting                                   | GA                   | NR 10-212(c)           |
| 11/1/2014 | annual                        | Additional Dwelling Unit Construction                     | EHE/ENV/JCCAC        | NR 8-1808.1(e)(3)(ii)  |
| 11/1/2014 | annual                        | Rural Legacy Board Progress                               | GOV/GA               | NR 5-9A-07(g)          |
| 12/1/2014 |                               | Historical & Projected Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funding | B&T/APP              | 2014 JCR p 181         |
| 12/1/2014 |                               | Oyster Restoration Program report                         | B&T/APP              | 2014 JCR p 222         |
| 12/1/2014 |                               | Recreational Striped Bass Data                            | GOV/EHE/ENV          | 2014 HB 1148           |

| Due        | Frequency                  | Report                                      | To          | Impetus                   |
|------------|----------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|
| 12/1/2014  | annual                     | Endangered/threatened fish status report    | GA          | NR 4-2A-04(g)             |
| 12/1/2014  | annual                     | Striped Bass Survey                         | GA          | NR 4-746(b)               |
| 12/31/2014 |                            | Deer Population Management                  | B&T/APP     | 2014 JCR p 65             |
|            | even numbered fiscal years | DNR Annual Report even numbered fiscal yrs  | public      | NR 1-104(e)               |
|            | annual with budget         | 2010 Trust Fund Work Plan                   | GA bud      | NR 8-2A-03(d)             |
|            | annual with budget         | Chesapeake Bay Restoration Expenditures     | B&T/APP     | 2014 JCR p 175            |
|            | annual with budget         | List of State Acquisition Projects          | DBM GA      | NR 5-904(a)               |
|            | annual with budget         | Oyster Restoration Monitoring plan          | B&T/APP     | 2012 JCR p 204            |
|            | annual                     | Angler's License receipts & expenditures    | public      | NR 4-604(f)(3)            |
|            | annual                     | Fishery Management Plans                    | LPC/EHE/ENV | NR 4-215(g)               |
|            | annual                     | Fishing Guide License Receipts              | public      | NR 4-210(h)(3)            |
|            | annual                     | Freshwater Fishing Guide License Receipts   | public      | NR 4-210.1(d)(2)          |
|            | annual                     | MET Annual Report                           | GOV/GA      | NR 3-203.1(10)            |
|            | annual                     | Phragmites Control                          | ENV/EHE     | NR 8-2103(c)(1)           |
|            | annual                     | Tidal Sport License receipts & expenditures | public      | NR 4-745                  |
|            | annual                     | Tree Expert Licenses                        | GA          | NR 5-419(c)               |
| 1/1/2015   |                            | Ocean Acidification in State Waters         | GOV/GA      | 2014 HB 118 Sec 1(g)      |
| 1/1/2015   | annual                     | State & Local Open Space by County          | GA          | 1995 Ch 584 HB 1105 Sec 2 |
| 1/1/2015   | annual                     | POS Contingency Fund                        | GA          | NR 5-903.1(f)             |
| 1/1/2015   | annual                     | Waterway Improvement Fund                   | B&T/APP     | NR 8-707(c)(2)            |
| 1/1/2015   | every 2 years              | Acid Deposition Activities                  | GOV/GA      | NR 3-3A-04                |

| Due       | Frequency                     | Report                                     | To      | Impetus                |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|---------|------------------------|
| 9/1/2015  |                               | Task Force re Enhancing Boating & Industry | GA      | 2013 Ch 80 Sec 4 HB 90 |
|           | 2000 & every 5 yrs            | Phragmites Infestation                     | ENV/EHE | NR 8-2103(c)(2)        |
| 12/1/2016 |                               | Rifle Shooters Training Implementation     | GA      | NR 10-408.2(d)         |
| 9/30/2017 |                               | Recreational Incentives Pilot Program      | GOV/GA  | 2014 Ch 22 Sec 1(f)    |
|           |                               | Oyster Advisory Commission reports         | GOV/GA  | NR 4-204(c)(3)(v)      |
|           |                               | Waters Closed to Finfishing                | public  | NR 4-215.1             |
|           | prior to spending             | Advance Option & Purchase Fund approval    | B&T/APP | NR 5-904(b)            |
|           | prior to spending             | Bay Access Areas Fund approval             | B&T/APP | NR 5-904(c)            |
|           | prior to spending             | Introducing non-native oysters             | GA      | NR 4-1008(c)(2)        |
|           | 45 days before BPW submission | land purchase >\$2 million                 | B&T/APP | NR 1-104(k)            |

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO REPORT REQUIREMENTS**

If the deadlines outlined below are for some reason unable to be met for a statutory or JCR report requirement, the assigned DNR unit must notify DNR's Legislative Director and their Assistant Secretary as soon as possible.

**Internal DNR Review:** Final draft reports must be submitted to the appropriate DNR Assistant Secretary and DNR's Legislative Director, Rich Norling, no later than 3 weeks prior to the report's statutory due date. DNR's Legislative Director will then submit the final draft report to the Deputy Secretary and Secretary for final internal approval.

**DBM and Governor's Legislative Office Initial Review:** As has been the administrative policy for many years, both the Department of Budget and Management and the Governor's Legislative Office must have an opportunity to review these reports prior to submission to the General Assembly or external distribution to stakeholders or other interested persons. To assure appropriate review, DNR's Legislative Director will submit your draft report at least ten working days before the report is due to the GLO and the appropriate DBM budget analyst.

### **Budget Committees and DLS Submission:**

**Restricted Appropriations:** Where all or a portion of an appropriation is restricted, approval to release restricted funds should be requested from the budget committees, with a copy sent to the agency's budget analyst at the Department of Legislative Services (Andrew Gray). Each request should include a cover letter addressed to the budget committee chairs and should identify the agency, the amount restricted, the fund source, and should specifically note that the release of restricted funds is being requested.

**Submission Procedures:** All agency reports and studies submitted in response to committee narrative or budget bill language will be submitted by DNR's Legislative Assistant, Eileen Mosley, in electronic form (pdf only) and hard copy.

The naming for each item should include the session year of the JCR, the page in the JCR in which the item appears, an agency abbreviation, and the title of the report (2011\_p95\_DNR\_Dredging Report).

**Requesting an Extension:** If a time extension for any item is needed, please notify DNR's Legislative Director, Rich Norling, as soon as possible so that the Department can send correspondence indicating why an extension is needed (and the anticipated submission date) to the Governor's Legislative Office, appropriate committee chairmen, Cathy Kramer, and the DLS analyst.