

Natural Places Weekly Legislative Action Items

March 25, 2022



Created by Ben Mullins
from the Noun Project

Thank you for helping out! Democracy works and is worth fighting for. The following bills now need your help!

Monday March 21st was “crossover day” in the General Assembly. Any bill that hasn’t passed one chamber by this date has to go through the Rules Committee to continue. Here are the bills that could still use a phone call from you if you haven’t called this week. Also below are instructions on how to find your legislator’s number.

When you call this number a staff person will answer and you can provide your name, city, and say you urge your Delegate or Senator to support this bill because [In italics are suggestions for a comment to make when you call. If the staff member says the legislator already supports the bill, thank them for their support.

- **[SB 221](#) - Department of the Environment - Enforcement Authority** (The President)- This bill has crossed over and is awaiting action in the House Environment and Transportation Committee along with its cross-file, HB 402 (The Speaker) *This bill would enable the Department to issue fines to industries that threatens clean drinking water by holding them accountable for their actions.*
- **[HB 649](#) / [SB 492](#) - Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations** (zombie permits bill) The House bill (Del Love and others) has passed the House and is awaiting introduction to the Senate. The Senate bill (Sen Pinsky and others) has crossed over and is awaiting action in the House Environment & Transportation committee. *This bill would stop the current practice of extending outdated permits without re-issuing new ones and require regular inspections especially after a discharge violation.*
- **[HB 156](#), [Local Governments - Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones - Authorization](#)** (Del. Queen and others), now has a hearing on 3/30 in the Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. *This bill would designate certain urban areas as agricultural incentive zones and give incentives to urban farmers to start farming. This would stimulate small businesses and provide local sources of fresh food.*
- **[HB 884](#) - [State Conservation Land - Old Growth Forest - Management](#)** (Del. Gilchrist), has crossed over and has a hearing on 3/30 in Education, Health and

Environmental Affairs in the Senate. *This bill would prevent logging of old-growth forests on public lands which provide watershed protections and protect endangered species.*

- **HB 43 - Department of General Services - Energy-Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2022** (Del Hill), now awaiting action in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs *This bill would require newly constructed or acquired state buildings to use bird safe building practices which reduce often fatal window collisions and also result in overall energy savings in buildings.*
- **HB 784 - Irreplaceable Natural Areas Program** - has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. *This bill safeguards more than forests to include wetlands and other areas not protected elsewhere.*
- **SB 383 - Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation - Extension** - (King and Pinsky) This bill has passed in the Senate and is awaiting action along with its cross-file HB 531 in the House Ways and Means Committee. *This bill would continue funding to the successful Green School Program for another ten years.*
- **HB1228 - Natural Resources - Oysters - Spat, Shells, and Substrate** - This bill has passed the House (Del Crosby and others) and is awaiting action in the Senate committee of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and then Budget and Taxation, along with its cross file, SB 830 (Sen Elfreth). *This bill finds ways to recycle and recover oyster shells that can be used for new beds without having to dredge existing oyster reefs that are habitat for other wildlife.*
- **HB 275 / SB 273 - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements** The House Bill (Love and others) has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee. The Senate bill (Sen Elfreth and others) has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in the House Health and Government Operations committee. *PFAS or forever chemicals would be removed from products such as firefighting foam, rugs, and food packaging. PFAS have been shown to have negative health effects.*
- **HB 147 / SB 121 - Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program - Alterations** The House bill (Del Charkoudian and others) is on 3rd reader and the Senate bill (Sen Hester and others) has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in House Environment & Transportation committee first and then Ways & Means second. *This bill would increase funds given to food banks and charitable organizations that work to alleviate food insecurity. Additionally, this bill would award grants to schools so they could purchase local fresh foods for school lunches.*

Choose a few of these bills that you feel passionate about and call (better) or email your state senators and delegates and tell them why they are important to you and ask for their support. **Thanks in advance for any help you can provide to help these bills pass the final stretch and get to the Governor's desk!**

Find your representatives here:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

After you put in your address, you will see all your representatives. Scroll down to the bottom, where state representatives are listed. If you click email, you can send an email to all of them.

This is just an example of results, yours might be different:

Maryland Legislative District	13
Contact checked Legislators	Email
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Senator	Guy Guzzone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Delegate 1	Vanessa E. Atterbeary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Delegate 2	Shane E. Pendergrass
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Delegate 3	Jen Terrasa

If you click on an individual representative's name, you will go to that legislator's main page where you can find a phone number to call them, as well as their individual email address. See example below.

This is just an example of legislator's page, yours might be different:

Senator Sarah K. Elfreth

[Main](#) [Legislation](#) [Biography](#)



District	30
County	Anne Arundel
Committee Assignment(s)	Budget and Taxation Committee
Annapolis Info	103 James Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone 410-841-3578 301-858-3578 Toll-free in MD 1-800-492-7122 ext. 3578 Fax 410-841-3156 301-858-3156
Interim Info	103 James Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone 410-841-3578 301-858-3578 Fax 410-841-3156 301-858-3156
Contact	sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us

These bills did not make it through cross-over day, but we look forward to them being re-introduced next year:

SB 791/HB 1031 The Maryland the Beautiful Act – Environment & Transportation and Appropriations with sponsors Leudtke and Stein / Budget & Taxation and Education, Health & Environmental Affairs with sponsor Elfreth - would set the ambitious goal of preserving 30% of Maryland's lands by 2030 and 40% by 2040. This bill would also establish two new conservation programs. The Greenspace Equity Program sets up funds for private land trusts to conserve areas in underserved communities by creating places such as urban parks and community gardens. The Land Trust and Local Government Revolving Loan Fund would create bridge loan opportunities for private land trusts to increase their conservation activities. Funds for stewardship of mature trees on private lands is also supported. Conserving Maryland's natural places is critical to providing both human and wildlife communities buffers against climate change.

HB 570 Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals – Health & Government Operations – Stein – This bill would prohibit the state or local government or a certified applicator from using a mosquito spray that contains PFAS chemicals. If you are concerned about this forever chemical being applied in your outdoor environment, please support this bill today. Position: Favorable

SJ 6 Atlantic Menhaden – Prohibition on Commercial Reduction Fishing

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs - Bailey

A resolution to request the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries to prohibit the over-fishing of the Atlantic menhaden fish in the Chesapeake. We need this bill because many species of fish and also ospreys rely on the menhaden fish to survive, it is a key fish in the ecosystem. Allowing overfishing of this species threatens the health of the bay. Position: Favorable.

HB 500 Dredging on Man-O-War Shoals – Prohibition

Environment & Transportation – Grammer

Man-O-War Shoals is the last remaining oyster reef that has not been dredged for its shells. This reef supports a thriving ecosystem where many local people come to fish individually and commercially to supply Baltimore restaurants with fresh seafood. We must act now to save this relic reef that supports so much aquatic life. Position: Favorable.

HB1372 - Green Infrastructure Rebate Program

Sponsors: Lehman, Acevero, Charles, Foley, Henson, Landis, Proctor, Ruth, Terrasa, and Turner

We're wearing green this St Patrick's Day and planning to make Maryland the Green State. This Bill will provide property owners the funding to invest in green infrastructure for stormwater management. Position: Favorable with Amendments

HB0371 - Salt Applicator Certification Program

Sponsors: Qi, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Palakovich Carr, Proctor, and Ruth

Too much salt can spoil your meal. It can also poison our streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater. This Bill will encourage efficient winter maintenance of roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks through improved use of salt or salt alternatives. Position: Favorable