



Enact the Maryland the Beautiful Act to Benefit Our People, Wildlife & Climate

[HB 631 \(Del. Dana Stein\)](#) and [SB 470 \(Sen. Sarah Elfreth\)](#)

Conserving more Maryland lands will contribute to achieving national goals that benefit our people, wildlife, and climate.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Flourishing natural areas and parks are indispensable to people's health, prosperity, cultural traditions, and enjoyment.
- The International 30 x 30 Conservation Agenda and a Federal Executive Order call on our nation to preserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030.
- We need to meet the challenges of climate change and provide space for people and wildlife to thrive.
- One million species are at risk of extinction worldwide. In the last 40 years, wildlife populations have declined by 60 percent because of habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental factors.
- This bill will include important actions to help conserve and support stewardship of Maryland lands. In the last half of the century, Maryland lost an estimated 7,200 acres of forest land per year.



WHAT THIS BILL WILL DO

- The bill sets a new Maryland conservation goal to conserve **30% of its lands by 2030** and **40% by 2040**.
- The bill will create several new categories of funding to permanently protect cultural, historical, ecological, and agricultural lands from development.
- These include a \$10 million Local Land Trust Revolving Loan Fund to enable small to medium-sized Land Trusts to quickly secure newly available land and conservation easements.
- The bill also creates grant programs to support improved stewardship of lands protected by easements, land trust capacity development, and citizen engagement on the 40x40 conservation goal.

WHAT ARE THE BILL'S BENEFITS? THIS BILL WILL:

1. Move Maryland closer to the 30x30 and 40% by 2040 Land Conservation Goals. (Currently Maryland has conserved nearly 29% of lands, though a smaller share of its waters, which aren't addressed by this bill)
2. Help preserve biodiversity and habitat for native plants and animals.
3. Help reduce loss of agricultural and other land to development.

Ask your Maryland legislators to support the Maryland the Beautiful Act!

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