

**NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF BILL 24-05
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Take Notice that Bill 24-05 (Natural Resources – Critical Area Law) was introduced by Commissioners Abbott, Bertino, Bunting, Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic, and Purnell on May 21, 2024.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

§NR 3-101: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-102: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations (i.e. provide definition for lot coverage which took the place of the term impervious surface).

§NR 3-103: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-104: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-105: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections.

§NR 3-106: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations, including updating adjacency regulations.

§NR 3-107: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations. Some language changes made to reflect new terminology (i.e. lot coverage verse impervious surface).

§NR 3-108: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections. Special Event Language added, as previously adopted locally by the County Commissioners on May 19, 2020 with passage of Bill # 20-3.

§NR 3-109: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-110: Changes made to update current State regulations.

§NR 3-111: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations, including After the Fact variance requests and Administrative variances.

§NR 3-112: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations. **Updates growth allocation acreage based on comments from the Critical Area Commission.**

§NR 3-113: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections.

§NR 3-114: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations. Unauthorized clearing section originally from §NR 3-116(g) moved to this section.

§NR 3-115: This section was entirely placed within §NR 3-114, then the Lot Consolidation and Reconfiguration section (from COMAR) was added to the Worcester County Code; therefore, the language in this section is completely new and added to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-116: Parts of this section were deleted because they are not in COMAR. Other parts of this section (g-Enforcement) were placed in §NR 3-114.

§NR 3-117: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-118: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-119: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections.

§NR 3-120: **Adds clarifying language for the usage of the DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service resource inventory based on comments from the Critical Area Commission.**

§NR 3-121: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections. Removed section on Bald Eagles as they are no longer considered an endangered species.

§NR 3-122: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections. Removed “wetlands” from section.

§NR 3-123: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-124: Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. **Adds language from the Critical Area model ordinance based on comments from the Critical Area Commission.**

§NR 3-125: No changes.

§NR 3-126: This is a completely new section, taken from COMAR/State regulations.

§NR 3-127: This section was renumbered from §NR 3-126. Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coast Bays sections and to update current State regulations.

§NR 3-127 (original code): This section was removed because Maryland Department of Environment oversees wetlands.

§NR 3-127: This section was renumbered from §NR 3-126. Changes made to combine the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays sections and to update to current State regulations.

§NR 3-128: This is a new section based on recent regulations passed by the Critical Area Commission on April 1, 2021.

A Public Hearing

will be held on Bill 24-05 at the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Room 1101 – Government Center, One West Market Street, Snow Hill, Maryland on **Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**

This is only a fair summary of the bill. A full copy of the bill is posted on the Legislative Bulletin Board in the main hall of the Worcester County Government Center outside Room 1103, is available for public inspection in Room 1103 of the Worcester County Government Center. A full copy of the bill with an option to submit comments will also be available by a link provided on the County Website at www.co.worcester.md.us.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS