

# HOUSE BILL 120

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9lr1407  
CF 9lr1093

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By: **Delegates Love, Fraser-Hidalgo, Acevero, Bridges, Brooks, Cain, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Ebersole, Gilchrist, Ivey, Kelly, Korman, Lafferty, Lehman, R. Lewis, Lisanti, Lopez, Luedtke, Moon, Qi, Solomon, Stewart, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – No Net Loss of Forest – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the standard for achieving a no net loss of forest policy to  
4 measure for forest land by altering the definition of “no net loss of forest”; and  
5 generally relating to the State’s no net loss of forest policy.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 5–101(a) and 5–102(b)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2018 Replacement Volume)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Natural Resources  
13 Section 5–101(i)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2018 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 5–101.

20 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) “No net loss of forest” means 40% of all land in Maryland is covered by [tree  
2 canopy] **FOREST LAND**.

3 5–102.

4 (b) It is the policy of the State to encourage the retention and sustainable  
5 management of forest lands by:

6 (1) Achieving no net loss of forest;

7 (2) Affording due consideration to the protection and retention of forests in  
8 the State through existing land conservation programs where they have the highest value  
9 in terms of promoting the State’s compliance with its clean water goals under the 2014  
10 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the 2007 Forestry Conservation Initiative;

11 (3) Enhancing the retention of privately owned forest lands through  
12 research–based educational outreach efforts to landowners by the State’s forest  
13 conservancy district boards;

14 (4) Developing financial incentives to encourage landowners to retain and  
15 manage their forests sustainably and in a manner that is consistent with a forest  
16 stewardship plan;

17 (5) Promoting renewable energy policies and markets with increased  
18 emphasis on the use of in–State produced woody biomass;

19 (6) Ensuring dual certification of the State’s forests by the Forest  
20 Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative;

21 (7) Recognizing the importance of:

22 (i) A viable forest products industry to the economies of rural  
23 Maryland;

24 (ii) Continued development of fiber products; and

25 (iii) Maryland’s green infrastructure; and

26 (8) Developing and enhancing programs with a sustainable forestry  
27 component, including a forest mitigation banking system, a carbon credit or carbon  
28 sequestration program, a clean water credit trading system, an environmental services  
29 credit trading program, and a renewable energy credit trading system.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2019.