

SB0729/544231/1

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 729

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland”; in line 3, after “of” insert “requiring the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro–Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Planning, the Department of Agriculture, and the Chesapeake Bay Program, to conduct a technical study to review changes in forest cover and tree canopy in the State; providing for the scope of the technical study; requiring the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro–Ecology to submit a report of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a technical study to review changes in forest cover and tree canopy in Maryland.”; and strike beginning with “establishing” in line 3 down through “Maryland.” in line 11.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 14 on page 1 through line 5 on page 3, inclusive.

On page 3, after line 5, insert:

“(a) (1) The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro–Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Planning, the Department of Agriculture, and the Chesapeake Bay Program, as appropriate, shall conduct a technical study to review changes in forest cover and tree canopy in the State.”

(Over)

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(2) The technical study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, include:;

after line 10, insert:

“(iii) an analysis of the progress toward the State’s commitments to expand urban tree canopy acres and plant riparian forest buffers under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement;”;

in lines 11 and 22, strike “(iii)” and “(iv)”, respectively, and substitute “(iv)” and “(v)”, respectively; in line 11, after “in” insert “land cover and”; in line 15, after “involving” insert “existing forest conserved,”; in line 17, after “clearing” insert “, planting,”; in line 18, after “areas” insert “and locally designated growth areas”; in line 21, strike “; and” and substitute “, and the zoned density and sewer status of those areas;”; and in line 28, after “programs;” insert:

“(vi) a review of forest mitigation banking in the State, including:

1. capacity and location of active banks;
2. regulation of citing and creation of new banks;
3. geographic limitations on the use of mitigation banks;
4. the relationship between fee-in-lieu rates under the Forest Conservation Act and the market for forest mitigation banks; and
5. whether expanding the use of forest mitigation banks could provide water quality improvements and other beneficial results; and

(vii) a programmatic and funding review of federal, State, and local tree and forest planting programs such as:

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1. Marylanders Plant Trees;
2. Lawn to Woodland;
3. Backyard Buffers;
4. Conservation Reserve Enhance Program; and
5. other programs used to further TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans and MS4 permit compliance.

(b) On or before December 1, 2019, the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology shall submit a report of its findings of the technical study required under subsection (a) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 29 on page 3 through line 12 on page 4, inclusive.