

HOUSE BILL 941

M3

3lr2669

By: **Delegate Adams**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Poplar Island and Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Citizens Oversight Committee –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Poplar Island and Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island
5 Citizens Oversight Committee to monitor certain activities and hear and address
6 certain concerns and complaints relating to Poplar Island, Mid-Chesapeake Bay
7 Island, the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island, and
8 the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project; and generally
9 relating to the Poplar Island and Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Citizens Oversight
10 Committee.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Environment
13 Section 5–1104.3
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Environment**

19 **5–1104.3.**

20 **(A) THERE IS A POPLAR ISLAND AND MID-CHESAPEAKE BAY ISLAND**
21 **CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.**

22 **(B) (1) THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF THE**
23 **FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(I) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE DORCHESTER SEAFOOD
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION;

(II) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE TALBOT WATERMEN
ASSOCIATION;

(III) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE DORCHESTER COUNTY
SHORE EROSION CONTROL DISTRICT IN WHICH MID-CHESAPEAKE BAY ISLAND IS
LOCATED;

(IV) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING TALBOT COUNTY;

(V) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING DORCHESTER COUNTY;

(VI) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING SPORT FISHING;

(VII) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE PLEASURE BOATING
INDUSTRY;

(VIII) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE BIRDING COMMUNITY;

(IX) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE EASTERN SHORE LAND
CONSERVANCY; AND

(X) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
37A AND 37B.

(2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DETERMINE THE TERMS AND
QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

(C) THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL:

(1) MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINMENT STRUCTURES,
PLACEMENT OF DREDGE MATERIALS, HABITAT RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE
ACTIVITIES, PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS, AND HABITAT AND WILDLIFE
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES ON AND AROUND POPLAR ISLAND AND MID-CHESAPEAKE
BAY ISLAND;

(2) HEAR AND ADDRESS CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS FROM
INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND SPOIL PLACEMENT
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAUL S. SARBANES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
PROJECT AT POPLAR ISLAND AND THE MID-CHESAPEAKE BAY ISLAND
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT; AND

1 **(3) MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM PUBLIC ACCESS**
2 **PLANS FOR POPLAR ISLAND AND MID-CHESAPEAKE BAY ISLAND AND THE**
3 **SURROUNDING AREAS.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2023.