

## SUPPORT SB184 and HB221

Tree conservation ordinance; Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act locality, designated trees.  
Senator Mamie Locke/Delegate Mugler

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### Reasons to support Senate Bill 184 and House Bill 221

1. SB 184 and HB 221 allow localities with a tree conservation ordinance to designate individual trees as “Chesapeake Bay watershed trees.
2. Current law allows individual designation of heritage, memorial, specimen, and street trees. This bill contains a technical amendment to add “Chesapeake Bay watershed trees” as another designation category.
3. Localities that are subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act would be able to identify trees that have ecological, stormwater, riparian buffer, or tree canopy significance. Once designated, the locality may make reasonable provision for the tree’s preservation or removal.
4. Trees can improve a locality’s resilience to rising seas by combating flooding. Trees slow down storm surges and absorb flood waters, slowly releasing them into the atmosphere.
5. Trees capture carbon, reducing the impact of climate change and extreme weather as well as providing habitat for dwindling bird populations.

### Overview

SB 184 and HB 221 provide localities subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act with the authority to conserve “Chesapeake Bay watershed trees,” defined as those that provide “*ecological, stormwater, riparian buffer, or tree-canopy significance.*” This bill would assist tidal communities in becoming more resilient to impacts from sea level rise and tidal flooding. Mature trees also sequester carbon, retain soil, reduce heat island effects, and reduce urban and suburban runoff



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