



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*  
*Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary*

**Bill Number:** HB 1313

**Short Title:** Exception to Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Requirements

**Department's Position:** Letter of Information

**Explanation of Department's Position**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR or Department) provides the following information on HB1313.

“Living shorelines” are a preferred method of shoreline protection because they trap sediment, filter pollution, and provide important aquatic and terrestrial habitat. DNR’s Shoreline Conservation Service provides assistance to many citizens who are concerned that a living shoreline will not work at their particular site. Many times this is not the case and our staff is able to work with them on a variety of different site conditions, even on properties that have a significant fetch (20+ miles) and located in high wave energy environments. The fetch for a particular shoreline is the distance traveled by wind and or waves across open water.

For instances where a living shoreline will not be feasible, Maryland’s 2008 Living Shoreline Protection Act provides a process by which a waiver may be obtained. Reasons for a waiver include excessive erosion, severe high energy conditions, extreme water depths, or the fact that the waterway is too narrow for effective use of nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.