



House Bill 602 – Environment – State Wetlands – Shoreline Restoration

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Maryland REALTORS® support HB 602 would require the Maryland Departments of Environment and Natural Resources to designate priority shoreline for nonstructural shoreline stabilization and provide funding to assist homeowners.

Maryland law currently favors nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures like “living shorelines” rather than hardened structures like seawalls. HB 602 would move that policy further requiring the Departments to identify priority shoreline for removing hardened structures stabilizing shorelines in favor of “living shorelines.”

The REALTORS® suggest that given the current state policy, the bill should provide additional flexibility in the funding. Rather than limiting grant funding only to the replacement of structural shoreline, the bill should prioritize funding for this purpose but still give the Department flexibility to assist homeowners whose properties may fall within the priority area but the homeowner is not technically replacing a structural shoreline.

With this change, the Maryland REALTORS® recommend a favorable report.

**For more information contact lisa.mays@mdrealtor.org or
christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org**

Amendment 1

On page 4, line 6-7, strike “**THE REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION MEASURES WITH**”

On page 4, lines 8-9, strike “**SHORELINE STABILIZATION REPLACEMENT PROJECTS**” and substitute “**THE REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION MEASURES WITH NONSTRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION MEASURES**”