

Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (Chesapeake WILD) Act of 2019

Bill Summary

The Chesapeake WILD Act will give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a direct role in the restoration and protection of living resources and their habitat in the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay region. This non-regulatory bill directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a grants program to enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. There are key areas in the tidal Chesapeake Bay system that would benefit from this program, including areas for wetland restoration. However, there is a tremendous need in upland areas; and some commitments under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement are behind schedule. This legislation would enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to more fully engage in habitat restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Chesapeake WILD Act is intended to assist local partners with on-the-ground work to enhance progress toward Chesapeake Bay Watershed-wide goals on some of the following activities:

- Riparian forest buffer restoration
- Improving stream health
- Tidal and Non-tidal wetland restoration
- Improving fish habitat
- Expanding populations of black ducks
- Restoring and protecting eastern brook trout and their habitat
- Removing barriers to fish migration in freshwater systems

This legislation was introduced by Senator Van Hollen (D-MD).

Cosponsors:

Senator Capito (R-WV)
Senator Cardin (D-MD)
Senator Carper (D-DE)
Senator Kaine (D-VA)
Senator Warner (D-VA)
Senator Coons (D-DE)
Senator Manchin (D-WV)

Organizations Who Support the Bill

Members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, which includes over 240 organizations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The full Choose Clean Water Membership available at: <https://www.choosecleanwater.org/our-members>