

Legislative History

[House Bill 615](#) - Section 3-1001-3-1004 of the Natural Resources Article – entitled “Coast Smart Council” - was enacted into law in 2014. This law established the Maryland Coast Smart Council in the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of adopting specific Coast Smart siting and design criteria to address impacts associated with sea level rise and coastal flooding on future capital projects. The Council’s Coast Smart Construction Program, detailing its siting and design criteria and implementation procedures, was approved on June 26, 2015.

[House Bill 1350](#) (2018) - Section 3-1001(a) and (f) and 8-1001(a) and (i) of the Natural Resource Article - entitled "Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding - Construction, Adaptation, and Mitigation" expands the scope of the Coast Smart Council, the applicability of the Coast Smart siting and design criteria and modifies a requirement that must be included in the criteria. Under the bill, the criteria now apply to state and local projects for which at least 50% of the project costs are funded with state funds. The bill also specifies that the criteria do not apply to a public work contract of less than \$500,000. The bill clarified the inclusion of a "highway facility", updated the lowest floor elevation requirement and expanded the participation of the Council.

[House Bill 1427](#) (2019) - Section 3-1001(a) and (c) of the Natural Resources Article - entitled "Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding - Construction, Adaptation, and Mitigation" clarified the applicability of the siting and design guidelines, extended deadlines for revising the criteria and submission of nuisance flood plans.

[Senate Bill 299](#) (2024) - 3-1006 of the Natural Resources Article - entitled "Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding - Construction, Adaptation, and Mitigation" expanded the duties of the council to recommend regulations for adoption by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and added the development of procedures for exemptions as part of the Coast Smart Council’s official duties.