

HOUSE BILL 625

M1

2lr1043

By: **Delegates Haddaway–Ricchio and Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2012

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Critical Area Commission – Planting Credits – Warm Season Grass**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that warm season grasses be eligible for certain planting
4 credits; requiring that warm season grasses receive planting credits of a similar
5 weight and value as certain vegetation types; requiring that warm season
6 grasses be eligible for planting credits regardless of the acreage planted;
7 requiring the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic
8 Coastal Bays to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; and
9 generally relating to mitigation and planting standards for warm season
10 grasses in the Critical Area.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Natural Resources

13 Section 8–1808.12

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 **8–1808.12.**

20 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “WARM SEASON GRASS” MEANS NATIVE**
21 **GRASS THAT:**

22 **(I) BREAKS DORMANCY IN MID–SPRING;**

23 **(II) SHOWS ACTIVE GROWTH IN THE SUMMER;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (III) GROWS IN LARGE CLUMPS; AND

2 (IV) HAS AN EXTENSIVE ROOT SYSTEM.

3 (2) "WARM SEASON GRASS" INCLUDES:

4 (I) BIG BLUESTEM (ANDROPOGON GERARDII);

5 (II) EASTERN GAMMAGRASS (TRIPSACUM DACTYLOIDES);

6 (III) LITTLE BLUESTEM (SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM);

7 (IV) INDIANGRASS (SORGHASTRUM NUTANS); AND

8 (V) SWITCHGRASS (PANICUM VIRGATUM).

9 (B) WARM SEASON GRASS SHALL:

10 (1) BE LISTED AS A VEGETATION TYPE ELIGIBLE FOR PLANTING
11 CREDITS IN THE MITIGATION AND PLANTING STANDARDS UNDER COMAR
12 27.01.09.01-2I.;

13 (2) RECEIVE PLANTING CREDITS OF A SIMILAR WEIGHT AND
14 VALUE AS THE PLANTING CLUSTER 2 VEGETATION TYPE UNDER COMAR
15 27.01.09.01-2I.; AND

16 (3) BE ELIGIBLE FOR PLANTING CREDITS REGARDLESS OF THE
17 ACREAGE PLANTED.

18 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
19 THIS SECTION.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2012.