

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 444

(Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's  
County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Prince George's County Planning Board - Nontraditional Recreational  
Opportunities - Establishment and Fund  
MC/PG 104-21**

---

This bill requires the Prince George’s County Planning Board to include nontraditional recreational opportunities as part of the county’s recreation programs. The bill defines “nontraditional recreational opportunities” as sports, recreational activities, programs, or facilities in the county with a reasonable promise of growth in (1) popularity; or (2) participation or demand among youth populations that are otherwise under-represented or underserved by traditional recreational activities. The bill establishes the Nontraditional Recreation Fund to finance and account for the development and maintenance of nontraditional recreational opportunities in the county. The bill also establishes the purpose of the fund and provisions related to the authorized uses of the fund. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) can incorporate nontraditional recreational opportunities into the recreational programs for Prince George’s County with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potentially meaningful.

---

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Nontraditional recreational opportunities may include (1) skate parks; (2) lacrosse walls; (3) remote-controlled car courses; (4) pickleball courts; (5) disc golf courses; (6) cricket fields; (7) pump tracks; and (8) any other new or innovative recreation or leisure activity recommendation included in a park and recreation plan.

M-NCPPC must record revenues from the development and maintenance of nontraditional recreational opportunities in the county in the Nontraditional Recreation Fund.

M-NCPPC must use the revenues of the Nontraditional Recreation Fund (1) for capital improvement projects that contribute to providing nontraditional recreational opportunities; (2) to provide patrons of the commission access to equipment necessary to participate in nontraditional recreational opportunities; and (3) for supplies and other direct program costs associated with providing nontraditional recreational opportunities.

**Current Law:** The Prince George's County Planning Board is required to (1) provide an adequate and balanced program of recreation to serve the needs and interests of various age groups among the residents of the county; (2) offer a comprehensive youth sports program that provides a variety of sports programming, leagues, and teams throughout the county; and (3) coordinate the program with M-NCPPC's park functions.

The county planning board may develop a recreation program that includes physical, social, mental, and creative opportunities that the county planning board considers appropriate to offer in:

- major recreation centers, playfields, athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, swimming pools, golf courses, community centers, and social centers on publicly or privately owned land or buildings made available for these purposes or over which the county planning board has sole or joint jurisdiction; or
- land or buildings of a municipal corporation or political subdivision in the county, if the municipal corporation or political subdivision requests the services of the county planning board.

The county planning board is authorized to contract with recreation or sports groups or associations to incorporate the activities of the groups or associations into the recreation program established by the county planning board.

### *The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission*

M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties that was empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and administer a regional system of parks  
HB 444/ Page 2

within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District and administer a general plan for the physical development of the area. In 1970, M-NCPPC became responsible for managing the Prince George's County public recreation program. M-NCPPC operates approximately 52,000 acres of parkland, trails, and open space in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as a variety of facilities, including nature centers, community centers, historic sites, and sports venues. In Montgomery County, the county recreation programs are operated by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** M-NCPPC funds and provides the county recreation program in Prince George's County. Local property taxes account for the vast majority (87.9%) of the total revenues for the county recreation program. M-NCPPC imposes a 7.8 cent real property tax rate (19.5 cent personal property tax rate) throughout the entire county that will generate approximately \$85.0 million in revenues. Total funding for the Prince George's County Recreation Fund is budgeted at \$96.7 million in fiscal 2021.

Since the bill is silent on the potential revenue sources for the Nontraditional Recreation Fund, it is assumed that M-NCPPC will use existing resources to initially fund and implement the nontraditional recreational opportunities.

M-NCPPC indicates that the following eight programs may be provided through the Nontraditional Recreation Fund: (1) an adventure recreation program that incorporates activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and boating; (2) a drone program that includes drone flight training, drone race events, and a drone show as part of a larger community event; (3) a mobile play program to offer paid internships for teens; (4) a mobile roller skate van that enables a park to become a roller rink; (5) a teen parks program to offer infrastructure and programming designed specifically for teens; (6) Program Access to provide programming for youth with disabilities and help stimulate the local economy by partnering with small business owners; (7) a camp scholarship for disadvantaged youth to provide scholarships to 15 disadvantaged youth during summer camp; and (8) a garden youth fellowship program to introduce high school-aged students of color the benefits of green spaces and the rewards of green industry jobs.

**Small Business Effect:** Potentially meaningful for small businesses that partner with M-NCPPC. M-NCPPC indicates that one of the potential program offerings (Program Access) includes partnering with local small businesses to offer specialized training to disadvantaged youth to enhance employment opportunities for these individuals.

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission;  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2021  
rh/hlb Third Reader - April 2, 2021  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 2, 2021

---

Analysis by: Arnold Adja

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510