

# HOUSE BILL 531

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2lr1669  
CF SB 383

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By: **Delegate J. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 2, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant –**  
3 **Funding and Evaluation – Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the number of fiscal years for which the Governor must  
5 include a certain amount in the State budget for increasing the number of green  
6 schools in the State; extending the annual evaluation of the impact of the funds  
7 appropriated under this Act on increasing the number of green schools in the State;  
8 and generally relating to green schools.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–117  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–117.

18 (a) The Governor shall include the following amounts in the State budget to the  
19 Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education for increasing the number  
20 of green schools in the State:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (1) For fiscal year 2021, \$278,750;
- 2 (2) For fiscal year 2022, \$268,300;
- 3 (3) For fiscal year 2023, \$272,100;
- 4 (4) For fiscal year 2024, \$276,400;
- 5 (5) For fiscal year 2025, \$280,850; [and]
- 6 **(6) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, \$280,850;**
- 7 **(7) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, \$280,850; AND**
- 8 **[(6)] (8) For fiscal year [2026] 2028, \$216,600.**

9 (b) The appropriations made under subsection (a) of this section may only be used  
10 as follows:

11 (1) To support professional development, assist with transportation of  
12 students to and from environmentally focused activities, or support school projects that  
13 incorporate environmental best practices for waste and recycling, energy conservation,  
14 water conservation, schoolyard habitat, outdoor classrooms, transportation, or health, the  
15 following allocations:

- 16 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$115,000;
- 17 (ii) For fiscal year 2022, \$115,300;
- 18 (iii) For fiscal year 2023, \$115,600;
- 19 (iv) For fiscal year 2024, \$116,000;
- 20 (v) For fiscal year 2025, \$116,250; [and]
- 21 **(VI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, \$116,250;**
- 22 **(VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, \$116,250; AND**
- 23 **[(vi)] (VIII) For fiscal year [2026] 2028, \$116,600;**

24 (2) To increase the number of environmental educators in the State who  
25 will provide green schools training and assist schools with becoming a green school, the  
26 following allocations:

1 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$125,750;

2 (ii) For fiscal year 2022, \$130,000;

3 (iii) For fiscal year 2023, \$133,500;

4 (iv) For fiscal year 2024, \$137,400;

5 (v) For fiscal year 2025, \$141,600; [and]

6 **(VI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, \$141,600;**

7 **(VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, \$141,600; AND**

8 **[(vi)] (VIII) For fiscal year [2026] 2028, \$85,000;**

9 (3) To support statewide green school events, the following allocations:

10 (i) For each of fiscal years 2021 through **[2025] 2027**, \$8,000; and

11 (ii) For fiscal year **[2026] 2028**, \$6,000;

12 (4) To conduct, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, an annual  
13 evaluation of the impact of the funds appropriated under this section on increasing the  
14 number of green schools in the State, the following allocations:

15 (i) For each of fiscal years 2021 through **[2025] 2027**, \$10,000; and

16 (ii) For fiscal year **[2026] 2028**, \$4,000; and

17 (5) To create an online application form for a school to apply to get funding  
18 under this section, the following allocations:

19 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$20,000; and

20 (ii) For each of fiscal years 2022 through **[2026] 2028**, \$5,000.

21 (c) The annual evaluation funded under subsection (b)(4) of this section shall:

22 (1) Be conducted annually in calendar years 2022 through **[2027] 2029**;

23 (2) Be conducted by an independent contractor that has experience  
24 evaluating environmental programs;

25 (3) Examine whether the funding has:

**HOUSE BILL 531**

- 1 (i) Increased support for the development of green schools;
- 2 (ii) Provided professional development to more teachers; and
- 3 (iii) Increased the environmental literacy of students; and
- 4 (4) On completion, be provided to:
  - 5 (i) The President of the Senate;
  - 6 (ii) The Speaker of the House;
  - 7 (iii) The State Superintendent;
  - 8 (iv) The Secretary of the Environment;
  - 9 (v) The Secretary of Natural Resources;
  - 10 (vi) The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
  - 11 Committee;
  - 12 (vii) The House Committee on Ways and Means; and
  - 13 (viii) The House Environment and Transportation Committee.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.