

# SENATE BILL 541

M1, B5

2lr1782  
CF HB 727

---

By: **Senators Elfreth, Hester, Zucker, Augustine, Bailey, Beidle, Corderman, Eckardt, Edwards, Ellis, Feldman, Ferguson, Griffith, Guzzone, Hettleman, Jackson, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lam, Patterson, Pinsky, Ready, Rosapepe, Sydnor, Waldstreicher, Washington, West, ~~and Young~~ Young, Carozza, McCray, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2022

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 28, 2022

---

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service and State Parks – Alterations**  
3 **(Great Maryland Outdoors Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the Park Advisory Commission in the Department of Natural  
5 Resources and establishing the Parks and Recreation Commission in the  
6 Department of Natural Resources to provide oversight of the Maryland Park Service;  
7 addressing infrastructure, capacity, and accessibility needs within the Maryland  
8 Park Service and State parks, including establishing systems and processes for  
9 surveying infrastructure and critical maintenance needs, increasing the number of  
10 Maryland Park Service full-time employees, requiring the Department of Budget  
11 and Management to conduct certain staff reviews, requiring the Department of  
12 Natural Resources to develop a certain capital improvement plan and a  
13 comprehensive long-range strategic plan for the Park Service, requiring the  
14 Department of Legislative Services to hire an independent consultant to study  
15 certain aspects of the Maryland Park Service and State parks, requiring the  
16 Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain design principles and make  
17 certain considerations relating to the accessibility, inclusivity, safety, and location of  
18 State parks, ~~and~~ establishing the Freedman’s State Historical Park, and authorizing  
19 the Department of Natural Resources to enter into a certain memorandum of  
20 understanding or partnership agreement to establish or manage a partnership park  
21 in the State; establishing the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund as a special,

---

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 nonlapsing fund to provide funding for certain critical maintenance projects;  
 2 requiring interest earnings of the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund to be  
 3 credited to the Fund; establishing the Park System Capital Improvements and  
 4 Acquisition Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide funding for certain capital  
 5 improvement projects and the acquisition of certain land; requiring interest earnings  
 6 of the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund to be credited to the  
 7 Fund; establishing the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund  
 8 to provide funding related to outdoor recreation in the State; requiring interest  
 9 earnings of the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to be credited to the Fund; increasing  
 10 the amount of Program Open Space grants awarded to Baltimore City beginning in  
 11 a certain fiscal year; requiring the Governor, for a certain fiscal year, to include in  
 12 the annual budget bill an appropriation of a certain amount to the Rural Legacy  
 13 Program, the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund, the Park System Capital  
 14 Improvements and Acquisition Fund, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation  
 15 Fund, and the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development  
 16 Corporation; authorizing the Governor, for certain fiscal years, to include in the  
 17 annual budget bill an appropriation not exceeding a certain amount to the Great  
 18 Maryland Outdoors Fund; extending the termination of certain provisions of law  
 19 relating to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund; requiring the  
 20 Department of Budget and Management to revise a certain job title on or before a  
 21 certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Park Service.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 23 Article – Natural Resources  
 24 Section 5–204, 5–206(c), 5–903(a)(2)(ii)2., and 5–9A–01  
 25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 26 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

27 BY adding to  
 28 Article – Natural Resources  
 29 Section 5–210.1, ~~and 5–220, and 5–221~~ through 5–222; 5–2A–01 through 5–2A–05  
 30 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2A. Maryland Park Service”; and  
 31 5–1012  
 32 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 33 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

34 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 35 Article – Natural Resources  
 36 Section 5–903(a)(2)(ii)1. and 3.  
 37 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 38 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

39 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 40 Article – Agriculture  
 41 Section 2–505(a) and (b)  
 42 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 43 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

- 1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Agriculture  
3 Section 2–505(i)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Economic Development  
8 Section 10–501(a) and (f)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Economic Development  
13 Section 10–523(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145. and 13–109  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 26 BY adding to  
27 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
28 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146. ~~and 147.~~ through 148.  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (2021 Replacement Volume)
- 31 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
32 Article – Tax – Property  
33 Section 13–209(g)  
34 Annotated Code of Maryland  
35 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)
- 36 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
37 Article – Labor and Employment  
38 Section 9–207 and ~~9–503~~ 9–503(d) and (e)  
39 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – Tax – General  
4 Section 10–209  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Chapter 698 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018  
9 Section 3

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

12 **Article – Natural Resources**

13 5–204.

- 14 (a) (1) There is a Sustainable Forestry Council in the Department.
- 15 (2) The purpose of the Council is to advise the Department on all matters  
16 related to:
- 17 (i) Sustainable forestry management in the State;
- 18 (ii) The expenditure of funds from the Mel Noland Woodland  
19 Incentives Fund under § 5–307 of this title;
- 20 (iii) Existing regulatory and statutory policies that are perceived as  
21 economic barriers to a viable forest products industry;
- 22 (iv) New markets to enhance forest health, including renewable  
23 energy development through biomass energy, to offset fossil fuel consumption and reduce  
24 greenhouse gas emissions;
- 25 (v) Creative strategies to help privately owned forest lands better  
26 compete with real estate market values that are driving forest conversion and  
27 fragmentation;
- 28 (vi) The means to promote forest–based economies and processing  
29 capability that contribute to economic and employment growth; and
- 30 (vii) Assigning a nutrient efficiency benefit to forest stewardship  
31 plans and other forest conservation management plans that can be measurably tracked and  
32 reported by the number of forested acres covered by the plans.

1 (b) [There is a Park Advisory Commission in the Department.

2 (c) (1) The Sustainable Forestry Council shall have 9 members.

3 (2) Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
4 advice of the Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

5 [(d) (1) The Park Advisory Commission shall have 12 members.

6 (2) Members of the Park Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the  
7 Governor, with the advice of the Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.]

8 5-206.

9 (c) A [park services associate] PARK RANGER who is not commissioned as a law  
10 enforcement officer under subsection (b) of this section may issue a citation for a parking  
11 violation on:

12 (1) Property owned by the State and managed by the Department;

13 (2) Public and private property that is within the boundaries of State  
14 property managed by the Department;

15 (3) Public and private property that adjoins property owned by the State  
16 and managed by the Department; and

17 (4) A roadway within the boundaries of, or that portion of a roadway that  
18 adjoins, property owned by the State and managed by the Department.

19 **5-210.1.**

20 (A) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
21 **GENERAL SERVICES TO:**

22 (1) **DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ITS**  
23 **INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING:**

24 (I) **A LIST OF MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT EACH SITE; ~~AND~~**

25 (II) **THE STATUS OF EACH MAINTENANCE PROJECT; ~~AND~~**

26 (III) **THE DATE ON WHICH EACH PROJECT WAS ADDED TO THE**  
27 **SYSTEM; AND**

1                   **(IV) FEATURES THAT ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO MANAGE**  
 2 **THE PLANNING, SCHEDULING, WORK ORDER, AND COST OF EACH MAINTENANCE**  
 3 **PROJECT;**

4                   **(2) DEVELOP A FACILITY CONDITION INDEX ASSESSMENT PROCESS**  
 5 **FOR ALL PARK SERVICE SITES, MODELED AFTER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S**  
 6 **FACILITY CONDITION INDEX; AND**

7                   **(3) ESTABLISH A DEDICATED ASSET EVALUATION TEAM TO:**

8                   **(I) ASSESS THE CONDITION OF MARYLAND PARK SERVICE**  
 9 **~~SITES~~ STRUCTURES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND LANDSCAPES; AND**

10                   **(II) UPDATE INDIVIDUAL FACILITY CONDITION INDICES ON AN**  
 11 **ONGOING BASIS; AND**

12                   **(III) CROSS-REFERENCE THE CONDITION OF PARK SERVICE**  
 13 **SITES AND FACILITY CONDITION INDICES WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF PARK**  
 14 **SERVICE ASSETS WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES AS IDENTIFIED**  
 15 **BY THE DEPARTMENT USING THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREEN**  
 16 **TOOL.**

17                   **(B) WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO REPAIR OR REPLACE**  
 18 **INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
 19 **CONSIDER HOW THE REPLACEMENT VALUE OF AN ASSET WILL CHANGE IF ONLY**  
 20 **SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY IS USED, INCLUDING ANY ONGOING COST SAVINGS.**

21                   **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

22                   **(I) TAKE INVENTORY OF ALL STATE LAND MANAGED BY THE**  
 23 **DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING:**

24                               **1. ACREAGE;**

25                               **2. ANY STRUCTURES ON EACH PROPERTY; ~~AND~~**

26                               **3. THE USE OF EACH PROPERTY; AND**

27                               **4. WHETHER A PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN AN**  
 28 **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT USING**  
 29 **THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREEN TOOL;**

30                   **(II) DEVELOP A MAINTENANCE PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**  
 31 **PROCESS MODELED AFTER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S ASSET PRIORITY INDEX**

1 THAT INCLUDES A LAYER INDICATING WHETHER A MAINTENANCE PROJECT IS  
2 LOCATED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY AS IDENTIFIED BY THE  
3 DEPARTMENT USING THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREEN TOOL;  
4 AND

5 (III) DEVELOP AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF  
6 MAINTENANCE PROJECTS IN EVERY UNIT OF THE STATE PARK SYSTEM THAT ARE  
7 EXPECTED TO COST MORE THAN \$25,000.

8 (2) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT A SYSTEMWIDE  
9 SURVEY OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WITH A FOCUS ON RACIAL AND  
10 LINGUISTIC INCLUSIVITY, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATION OF RESTORATION,  
11 PRESERVATION, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

12 (II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DELAY THE PRESERVATION  
13 AND RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WHILE  
14 CONDUCTING THE SYSTEMWIDE SURVEY.

15 5-220.

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL  
17 MAINTENANCE FUND.

18 (B) THERE IS A PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL MAINTENANCE FUND.

19 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMPLETING  
20 STATE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS  
21 MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

22 (D) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

23 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
24 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

25 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
26 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

27 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

28 (1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 13-209(G) OF THE  
29 TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE;

30 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

1           **(3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND**

2           **(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
3 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

4           **(G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR STATE PARK PROJECTS THAT**  
5 **ADDRESS CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE**  
6 **DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.**

7           **(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
8 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

9           **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
10 **THE FUND.**

11           **(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
12 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

13           **(J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CRITICAL MAINTENANCE IN**  
14 **THE STATE'S PARKS IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE**  
15 **PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CRITICAL**  
16 **MAINTENANCE IN THE STATE'S PARKS.**

17           **(K) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONLY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN**  
18 **THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
19 **~~\$80,000,000~~ \$70,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR STATE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS**  
20 **CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT**  
21 **FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.**

22           **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPEND THE FUNDS ALLOCATED**  
23 **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BEFORE JULY 1, 2026.**

24 **5-221.**

25           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL**  
26 **IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION FUND.**

27           **(B) THERE IS A PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION**  
28 **FUND.**

29           **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR:**



1           (1) COMPLETING STATE PARK PROJECTS RELATED TO CAPITAL  
2 IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES;  
3 AND

4           (2) ACQUIRING LAND TO BE MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
5 PUBLIC PURPOSES AS A STATE PARK.

6           (D) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

7           (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
8 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

9           (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
10 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

11          (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

12           (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

13           (2) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

14           (3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR  
15 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

16          (G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:

17           (1) COMPLETING STATE PARK PROJECTS RELATED TO CAPITAL  
18 IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES;  
19 AND

20           (2) ACQUIRING LAND TO BE MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
21 PUBLIC PURPOSES AS A STATE PARK.

22          (H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
23 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

24           (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO  
25 THE FUND.

26          (I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
27 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

28          (J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN  
29 THE STATE'S PARKS IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE

1 PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CAPITAL  
2 IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATE'S PARKS AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE  
3 DEPARTMENT THAT WILL BE MANAGED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

4 (K) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONLY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE  
5 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
6 ~~\$70,000,000~~ \$36,873,928 TO THE FUND ~~TO BE USED AS FOLLOWS:~~

7 (L) THE FIRST \$70,000,000 RECEIVED BY THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY AS  
8 FOLLOWS:

9 (1) \$5,000,000 FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT MITIGATE  
10 THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:

11 (I) FLOOD BARRIERS;

12 (II) FOREST BUFFERS;

13 (III) GREEN SPACES;

14 (IV) BUILDING ELEVATION;

15 (V) STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE; ~~AND~~

16 (VI) WETLANDS RESTORATION; AND

17 (VII) ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS;

18 (2) \$5,000,000 FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
19 SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION;

20 (3) \$20,000,000 FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS,  
21 INCLUDING:

22 (I) IMPROVING BIKE LANES AND TRAILS, INCREASING  
23 WALKABILITY, AND EXPANDING PARKING AVAILABILITY; AND

24 (II) TARGETING TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS TO AVOID  
25 CAPACITY SHUTDOWNS;

26 (4) \$10,000,000 FOR INCREASING WATER ACCESS, INCLUDING KAYAK  
27 AND BOAT LAUNCHES AND AREAS FOR PICNICKING NEAR WATER AND SWIMMING;  
28 AND

1           **(5) \$30,000,000 FOR LAND ACQUISITION, INCLUDING:**

2                   **(I) AREAS IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE**  
3 **STATE THAT WILL:**

4                           **1. RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT EXISTING STATE**  
5 **PARKS; AND**

6                           **2. EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE PARKS AND**  
7 **OUTDOOR RECREATION;**

8                           **(II) SITES ~~WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MINORITY~~**  
9 **~~COMMUNITIES~~ OF SIGNIFICANCE TO THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN,**  
10 **INDIGENOUS OR NATIVE AMERICAN, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO POPULATIONS IN**  
11 **THE STATE; AND**

12                           **(III) BEACHFRONT OR WATERFRONT PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC**  
13 **ACCESS.**

14           **(M) FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNDER SUBSECTION (L) OF**  
15 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO, PARTICIPATE IN**  
16 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH, OR USE OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS TO**  
17 **FUND THE REHABILITATION OF STATE-OWNED HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE**  
18 **MARYLAND STATE PARK SYSTEM PERFORMED BY A NONGOVERNMENTAL**  
19 **ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF:**

20                   **(1) PROJECT MANAGEMENT;**

21                   **(2) HISTORIC REHABILITATION;**

22                   **(3) PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT; OR**

23                   **(4) PUBLIC SERVICE CORPS MANAGEMENT.**

24           **(N) IF THE FUND RECEIVES MORE THAN \$70,000,000, THE DEPARTMENT**  
25 **MAY USE UP TO \$10,000,000 FOR ANY OF THE PURPOSES IDENTIFIED UNDER**  
26 **SUBSECTION (L) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING LAND ACTIVATION AND NEW**  
27 **STRUCTURES.**

28 **5-222.**

29           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE GREAT MARYLAND OUTDOORS**  
30 **FUND.**

1       **(B) THERE IS A GREAT MARYLAND OUTDOORS FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

2       **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:**

3               **(1) SUPPORT THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT;**

5               **(2) PROVIDE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE EXISTING AND CREATE NEW**  
6 **OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES; AND**

7               **(3) IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MARYLAND**  
8 **OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO PROMOTE AND GROW THE**  
9 **OUTDOOR RECREATION SECTOR IN THE STATE.**

10       **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

11       **(E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
12 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

13               **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
14 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

15       **(F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

16               **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND IN**  
17 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS SECTION;**

18               **(2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

19               **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
20 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

21       **(G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

22               **(1) IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MARYLAND**  
23 **OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIC COMMISSION, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING AND**  
24 **SUPPORTING AN OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE DEPARTMENT;**

25               **(2) DEPARTMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE,**  
26 **PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE;**  
27 **AND**

28               **(3) AWARDING GRANTS TO DESTINATION MARKETING**  
29 **ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING AND MARKETING STATE PARKS.**

1 (H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
 2 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

3 (2) ANY INTEREST OR INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL  
 4 BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

5 (I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
 6 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

7 (J) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
 8 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION NOT  
 9 EXCEEDING \$3,000,000 TO THE FUND.

10 (K) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE  
 11 DEPARTMENT THAT PROVIDE, PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
 12 OPPORTUNITIES IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE  
 13 OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE PROGRAMS.

14 SUBTITLE 2A. MARYLAND PARK SERVICE.

15 5-2A-01.

16 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
 17 INDICATED.

18 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

19 (C) "PARK SERVICE" MEANS THE MARYLAND PARK SERVICE.

20 5-2A-02.

21 ~~(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL~~  
 22 ~~INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE PARK SERVICE BY 100~~  
 23 ~~PERMANENT, CLASSIFIED POSITIONS.~~

24 ~~(2) EACH STAFF POSITION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF~~  
 25 ~~THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET~~  
 26 ~~ALLOCATION TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR EACH EMPLOYEE.~~

27 ~~(3) THE STAFF POSITIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS~~  
 28 ~~SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

29 ~~(i) FIVE POSITIONS IN THE ENGINEERING AND~~  
 30 ~~CONSTRUCTION UNIT;~~

~~(H) FIVE POSITIONS IN THE LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING UNIT; AND~~

~~(H) ONE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR.~~

(A) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT BY 100 PERMANENT, CLASSIFIED POSITIONS.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL BUDGET THE 100 POSITIONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS:

1. 90 POSITIONS IN THE PARK SERVICE, INCLUDING 1 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR;

2. 5 POSITIONS IN THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT; AND

3. 5 POSITIONS IN THE LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING UNIT.

(2) TWO OF THE POSITIONS IN THE LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING UNIT SHALL BE FILLED BY ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN THE STATE WITH EXPERIENCE IN REAL ESTATE LAW.

(3) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$12,000,000 TO FUND THE 100 PERMANENT, CLASSIFIED POSITIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND RELATED OPERATING COSTS.

**(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:**

**(I) CONDUCT A STAFF ADEQUACY REVIEW OF THE PARK SERVICE EVERY 2 YEARS; AND**

**(II) REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE COMMISSION AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

**(2) AS A PART OF THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL CONSIDER STAFFING GOALS FOR THE PARK SERVICE.**

1           **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:**

2                           **(I) CONDUCT A STAFF SALARY REVIEW OF THE PARK SERVICE**  
3 **EVERY 3 YEARS; AND**

4                           **(II) REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE COMMISSION AND, IN**  
5 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
6 **ASSEMBLY.**

7                   **(2) THE SALARY REVIEW REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF**  
8 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FOCUS ON THE GOALS OF IMPROVING:**

9                           **(I) HIRING BY COMPENSATING PARK SERVICE EMPLOYEES AT**  
10 **A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH:**

11                                   **1. LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS;**

12                                   **2. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; AND**

13                                   **3. FOR PARK SERVICE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WHO**  
14 **PERFORM SKILLED AND LICENSED TRADE FUNCTIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR; AND**

15                           **(II) RETENTION BY PROMOTING UPWARD MOBILITY WITHIN A**  
16 **JOB SERIES.**

17           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOGNIZE ~~PARK SERVICE ASSOCIATES AND~~**  
18 **FOREST RANGERS, PARK RANGERS, AND WILDLIFE RANGERS AS EMERGENCY**  
19 **SERVICES PERSONNEL.**

20                   **(E) (1) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT A VOLUNTEER**  
21 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO STRATEGICALLY MANAGE VOLUNTEER SERVICES**  
22 **PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUALS AND STATE PARKS FRIENDS GROUPS.**

23                           **(II) THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED**  
24 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE MODELED ON THE**  
25 **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS PROGRAM.**

26                           **(2) THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SHALL BE MANAGED**  
27 **BY A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER DEDICATED TO OVERSEEING THE**  
28 **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

29                           **(3) THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER SHALL:**

1 (I) CONDUCT ANNUAL TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS;

2 (II) DEVELOP AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES;

3 (III) PERFORM AUDITS, EVALUATIONS, AND MONITORING TO  
4 DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; AND

5 (IV) DEVELOP AN ANNUAL REPORT ON VOLUNTEER STATISTICS  
6 AND IMPACTS.

7 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPAND ITS WORK WITH PARK-FOCUSED  
8 ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE CHARITABLE FUNDING FOR PARK ENHANCEMENTS.

9 5-2A-03.

10 (A) (1) THERE IS A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION IN THE  
11 DEPARTMENT.

12 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT  
13 OF THE PARK SERVICE.

14 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

15 (1) A CHAIR, APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
16 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

17 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY  
18 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

19 (3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY  
20 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; ~~AND~~

21 (4) ONE CITIZEN MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
22 SENATE;

23 (5) ONE CITIZEN MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
24 HOUSE; ~~AND~~

25 ~~(4)~~ (6) FOUR MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WHO  
26 REFLECT THE RACIAL, GENDER, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE  
27 STATE; AND



1           **(7) TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL**  
2 **JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES, DESIGNATED BY THE CHAIR OF THE**  
3 **COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.**

4           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT OF ~~LEGISLATIVE SERVICES~~ SHALL PROVIDE STAFF**  
5 **FOR THE COMMISSION.**

6           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH**  
7 **A BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE PARK SERVICE AND PARK SYSTEM, INCLUDING:**

8           **(1) THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL CAPACITY CLOSURES, LISTED BY**  
9 **LOCATION;**

10           **(2) THE CRITICAL MAINTENANCE BACKLOG;**

11           **(3) VACANT STAFF POSITIONS; ~~AND~~**

12           **(4) A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITION OF THE PARK SYSTEM'S**  
13 **NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING ANY VULNERABILITIES; AND**

14           **(5) ANY OTHER INFORMATION:**

15           **(I) RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARK SERVICE; OR**

16           **(II) REQUESTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

17           **(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET QUARTERLY TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF**  
18 **THE PARK SERVICE.**

19           **(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**  
20 **THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET**  
21 **AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND**  
22 **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**  
23 **COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
24 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

25           **(2) THE REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
26 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE COMMISSION'S:**

27           **(I) FINDINGS ON THE STATUS OF THE PARK SERVICE; AND**

28           **(II) RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
29 **CAN SUPPORT THE PARK SERVICE.**

1 **5-2A-04.**

2 (A) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND EVERY 5 YEARS  
3 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A 5-YEAR CAPITAL  
4 IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE PARK SERVICE.

5 (2) IN DEVELOPING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE  
6 DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION, ANNUALLY HOLD  
7 AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

8 (3) THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

9 (I) A LIST OF ALL OUTSTANDING CRITICAL MAINTENANCE  
10 PROJECTS AND THE PROJECTED COST OF EACH PROJECT;

11 (II) A PRIORITIZATION OF CRITICAL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS  
12 AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS FOR PRIORITIZING THE PROJECTS; AND

13 (III) SCORING AND RANKING FOR EACH CRITICAL MAINTENANCE  
14 PROJECT, AS DETERMINED BY THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS.

15 (4) THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE  
16 INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION  
17 DISAGGREGATED BY REGION.

18 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
19 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE 5-YEAR  
20 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE PARK SERVICE.

21 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL HIRE AN  
22 INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF:

23 (I) WHETHER THE PARK SERVICE IS PRODUCING OUTCOMES  
24 CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION;

25 (II) THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE FOR STATE PARKS, INCLUDING:

26 1. PARKING AVAILABILITY;

27 2. CLEANLINESS; AND

28 3. WHETHER FACILITIES, AMENITIES, OR AREAS ARE  
29 CLOSED, INCLUDING WHETHER THE CLOSURES ARE DUE TO DEFERRED  
30 MAINTENANCE; ~~AND~~

1 (III) HOW FUNDING CAN BE USED TO ENABLE THE PARK  
2 SERVICE TO PRODUCE OUTCOMES CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION; AND

3 (IV) HOW PARK SERVICE PROJECTS CAN SUPPORT:

4 1. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, AND  
5 RESILIENCY; AND

6 2. PUBLIC HEALTH.

7 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, THE INDEPENDENT  
8 CONSULTANT SHALL SUBMIT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE  
9 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
10 THE COMMISSION.

11 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

12 (1) RECOGNIZE AS A FORMAL POLICY THAT THE STATE'S FORESTS,  
13 TREES, AND WETLANDS ARE A MAJOR TOOL FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE  
14 WITH REGARD TO MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, AND RESILIENCY; AND

15 (2) REQUIRE ALL PARK SERVICE PROJECTS TO CONTRIBUTE, TO THE  
16 EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL WATER QUALITY.

17 (D) (1) THE PARK SERVICE SHALL ADOPT UNIVERSAL DESIGN  
18 PRINCIPLES IN ITS PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ACCESS  
19 ~~BY ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIORS.~~ AND SAFETY  
20 FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES,  
21 OLDER ADULTS, AND SENIORS.

22 (2) TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF,  
23 BLIND, OR BOTH, THE PARK SERVICE WEBSITE AND ALL OTHER DIGITAL OUTREACH  
24 PLATFORMS SHALL ADHERE TO WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES 2.1  
25 AND SECTION 508 OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

26 (E) THE PARK SERVICE SHALL ADOPT DESIGN PRINCIPLES RELATED TO  
27 CRIME PREVENTION IN ITS PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES TO ENSURE MAXIMUM  
28 PUBLIC SAFETY FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

29 (F) (1) THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS RELATED TO THE LOCATION AND  
30 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATE PARKS OR AMENITIES SHALL TARGET AREAS:

1 (I) IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PARK EQUITY TOOL AS  
2 IN NEED OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; OR

3 (II) THAT WOULD RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN EXISTING STATE  
4 PARKS THAT HAVE CONSISTENTLY HAD TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO CAPACITY  
5 RESTRICTIONS.

6 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE CULTURAL AND  
7 ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITIES OF STATE PARK AREAS WHEN EXAMINING THE  
8 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AMENITIES IN EXISTING STATE PARKS.

9 (3) THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS RELATED TO THE  
10 ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE HISTORICAL PARKS OR OTHER UNITS THAT PRESERVE  
11 AND INTERPRET THE ~~STORY OF HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED, MINORITY, AND~~  
12 ~~OTHER UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES~~ HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN,  
13 ASIAN, INDIGENOUS OR NATIVE AMERICAN, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO  
14 POPULATIONS IN THE STATE SHALL BE MADE:

15 (I) IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION; AND

16 (II) WITH INPUT FROM GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE PRESERVATION  
17 OF HISTORICAL SITES OF UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING:

18 1. THE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
19 AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES;

20 2. THE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
21 AND CULTURE;

22 3. THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC  
23 AMERICAN AFFAIRS;

24 4. THE COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS; AND

25 5. THE OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

26 5-2A-05.

27 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

28 (1) DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE  
29 STRATEGIC PLAN BY DECEMBER 1, 2023; ~~AND~~

1           (2) UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN  
2 EVERY 5 YEARS TO REFLECT MAJOR GOALS AND PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING  
3 THOSE GOALS; AND

4           (3) SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §  
5 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE COMPREHENSIVE  
6 LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANY UPDATES TO THE PLAN.

7           (B) THE COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN SHALL  
8 INCLUDE:

9           (1) THE FEASIBILITY OF:

10           (I) ESTABLISHING NEW STATE PARKS THROUGH:

11                   1. LAND ACQUISITION; OR

12                   2. REDESIGNATING EXISTING STATE LAND, INCLUDING  
13 CEDARVILLE STATE FOREST, TO BE A STATE PARK; AND

14           (II) DEVELOPING NEW AMENITIES IN CURRENT STATE PARKS,  
15 INCLUDING:

16                   1. TRAILS AND TRAIL CONNECTORS;

17                   2. WATER ACCESS;

18                   3. PARKING AREAS; AND

19                   4. OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT INCREASE  
20 PARK CAPACITY;

21           (2) NEW STATE HISTORICAL PARKS OR OTHER UNITS THAT  
22 PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THE ~~STORY OF MINORITIES AND OTHER~~  
23 ~~UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES~~ HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN,  
24 INDIGENOUS OR NATIVE AMERICAN, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO POPULATIONS IN  
25 THE STATE;

26           (3) A MULTILATERAL, WHOLE-SYSTEM PLAN FOR OUTDOOR  
27 RECREATION IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:

28           (I) THE RESULTS OF ANY COORDINATION BETWEEN THE  
29 DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND FEDERAL PARK SYSTEMS TO  
30 INCREASE TRAIL CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN PARK SYSTEMS; AND

1 (II) ~~AN ECONOMIC~~ A PARTNERSHIP PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE  
2 DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH:

- 3 1. THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION;
- 4 2. THE PARK SERVICE'S BUSINESS MANAGER;
- 5 3. COUNTY TOURISM ENTITIES AND ECONOMIC  
6 DEVELOPMENT OFFICES;
- 7 4. THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE;
- 8 5. THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; ~~AND~~
- 9 6. THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ROUNDTABLE; AND
- 10 7. THE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
11 AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES;

12 (4) THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE DAY-USE RESERVATION  
13 SYSTEM BEYOND THE FALLING BRANCH AREA OF ROCKS STATE PARK TO ALL  
14 PARKS EXPERIENCING CAPACITY SHUTDOWNS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS ON  
15 HOW THE EXPANSION OF THE DAY-USE RESERVATION SYSTEM MAY IMPACT STATE  
16 PARK VISITORS IN TERMS OF EQUITY AND ACCESS;

17 (5) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE DEPARTMENT CAN INTEGRATE  
18 INFRASTRUCTURE MESSAGING WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND LOCAL  
19 GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A  
20 COORDINATED WEBSITE AND DIGITAL APPLICATION THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION  
21 ON:

- 22 (I) WHERE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ARE LOCATED;
- 23 (II) AVAILABLE AMENITIES; AND
- 24 (III) REAL-TIME INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONAL STATUS  
25 OF A PARK, INCLUDING CAPACITY;

26 (6) LONG-TERM MEASURES TO:

27 (I) ~~RECRUIT AND RETAIN PEOPLE OF COLOR AND BILINGUAL~~  
28 ~~STAFF INTO PARK SERVICE POSITIONS~~ A DIVERSE PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE, IN

1 ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S DIVERSITY STRATEGY UNDER  
 2 DIRECTOR'S ORDER #16B; AND

3 (II) PROVIDE ONGOING UPDATES ON EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND  
 4 RETAIN A DIVERSE PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE;

5 (7) DETAILS AND UPDATES ON THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION  
 6 OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:

7 (I) PROGRAMS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE'S  
 8 HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; ~~THAT ARE:~~

9 ~~(I) (II) MODELED PROGRAMS MODELED ON THE CADET~~  
 10 ~~PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SERVICE'S DIVERSITY~~  
 11 ~~STRATEGY UNDER DIRECTOR'S ORDER #16B; AND~~

12 ~~(I) (III) FOCUSED PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON CREATING A~~  
 13 ~~PIPELINE OF NEW RANGERS AND OTHER FULL-TIME STAFF FROM AMONG~~  
 14 ~~VOLUNTEERS, THE STATE FOSTER YOUTH SYSTEM, AND HISTORICALLY~~  
 15 ~~UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES; AND~~

16 (8) THE RESULTS OF:

17 (I) IMPLEMENTING A VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 18 UNDER § 5-2A-02(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

19 (II) LEVERAGING CHARITABLE FUNDING FOR PARK  
 20 ENHANCEMENTS UNDER § 5-2A-02(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

21 (III) ANY COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND  
 22 THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES  
 23 TO IMPROVE BICYCLE, SIDEWALK, AND TRAIL ACCESS TO STATE PARKS.

24 ~~5-2A-06.~~

25 ~~IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE PARK SERVICE~~  
 26 ~~IDENTIFY AND ACQUIRE LAND TO BE USED FOR A STATE PARK IN PRINCE GEORGE'S~~  
 27 ~~COUNTY WITHIN THE BOUNDARY CREATED BY INTERSTATE 495 IN THE STATE AND~~  
 28 ~~THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.~~

29 5-903.

30 (a) (2) (ii) 1. As specified in subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, a  
 31 portion of the State's share of funds available under subparagraph (i)1A of this paragraph  
 32 for this program shall be utilized to make grants to Baltimore City for projects which meet

1 park purposes. The grants shall be in addition to any funds Baltimore City is eligible to  
 2 receive under subsection (b) of this section, and may be used for acquisition or development.  
 3 In order for Baltimore City to be eligible for a State grant, the Department shall review  
 4 projects or land to be acquired within Baltimore City, and upon the Department's  
 5 recommendation, the Board of Public Works may approve projects and land including the  
 6 cost. Title to the land shall be in the name of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City.  
 7 The State is not responsible for costs involved in the development or maintenance of the  
 8 land.

9                               2. The grants to Baltimore City under subparagraph 1 of  
 10 this subparagraph shall be made in the following amounts:

11                               A. For fiscal year 2017, \$1,500,000;

12                               B. For fiscal year 2018, \$3,500,000;

13                               C. For fiscal year 2019, \$5,500,000; [and]

14                               D. For fiscal [year] YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2023, [and for  
 15 each subsequent fiscal year,] \$6,000,000; AND

16                               E. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR  
 17 THEREAFTER, \$10,000,000.

18                               3. The grants made under this subparagraph supplement  
 19 rather than supplant any other funding for park purposes in Baltimore City, no matter the  
 20 source.

21 5-9A-01.

22           (a) The General Assembly declares that:

23                   (1) Sprawl development and other modifications to the landscape in  
 24 Maryland continue at an alarming rate, consuming land rich in natural resource,  
 25 agricultural, and forestry value, adversely affecting water quality, wetlands and habitat,  
 26 threatening resource-based economies and cultural assets, and rending the fabric of rural  
 27 life;

28                   (2) Current State, county, and local land conservation programs help to  
 29 limit the effect of sprawl development but lack sufficient funding and focus to preserve key  
 30 areas before escalating land values make their protection impossible or the land is lost to  
 31 development; and

32                   (3) A grant program that leverages available funding, focuses on  
 33 preservation of strategic resources, including those resources threatened by sprawl  
 34 development, streamlines real property acquisition procedures to expedite land  
 35 preservation, takes advantage of innovative preservation techniques such as transferable



1 development rights and the purchase of development rights, and promotes a greater level  
2 of natural and environmental resources protection than is provided by existing efforts, will  
3 establish a rural legacy for future generations.

4 (b) (1) A Rural Legacy Program is established to enhance natural resource,  
5 agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection as provided in subsection (a) of this  
6 section while maintaining the viability of resource-based land usage and proper  
7 management of tillable and wooded areas through accepted agricultural and silvicultural  
8 practices for farm production and timber harvests.

9 (2) The Program provides funds to the local governments and land trusts  
10 to purchase interests in real property from willing sellers, including easements,  
11 transferable development rights, and fee estates, focused in designated Rural Legacy  
12 Areas.

13 (3) The Program shall encourage partnerships among the federal, State,  
14 and local governments, and nonprofit land trust organizations and encourage local land  
15 conservation initiatives.

16 (4) The Program is administered by a Rural Legacy Board in the  
17 Department of Natural Resources, an advisory committee, and existing State staff.

18 (c) The Program is funded:

19 (1) Pursuant to § 13-209 of the Tax – Property Article and § 5-903(a)(2)(iii)  
20 of this title; [and]

21 (2) By the proceeds from the sale of general obligation bonds as provided  
22 in § 5-9A-09 of this subtitle; AND

23 **(3) BY MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
24 **PROGRAM.**

25 **(d) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
26 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,444,127 TO THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(E)** When negotiating and awarding grants, the Board shall encourage sponsors  
28 to utilize zero coupon bonds in the implementation of the Rural Legacy Plan in order to  
29 reduce the utilization of general obligation bonds in funding the grants.

30 **5-1012.**

31 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PARTNERSHIP PARK” MEANS A UNIT OF THE STATE**  
32 **PARK SYSTEM MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL**  
33 **GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY AGENCY, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**

1           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO:**

2                   **(1) A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH A LOCAL**  
 3 **GOVERNMENT, BICOUNTY AGENCY, OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ESTABLISH A**  
 4 **PARTNERSHIP PARK IN THE STATE; OR**

5                   **(2) A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH A LOCAL GOVERNMENT,**  
 6 **BICOUNTY AGENCY, OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO MANAGE A PARTNERSHIP**  
 7 **PARK IN THE STATE.**

8           ~~(B)~~ **(C)**       **(1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE FREEDMAN'S**  
 9 **STATE HISTORICAL PARK AS A PARTNERSHIP PARK THAT SEEKS TO EDUCATE THE**  
 10 **PUBLIC ABOUT AND PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF**  
 11 **BLACK AMERICANS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.**

12                   **(2) FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK SHALL BE HELD BY THE**  
 13 **STATE AS A STATE PARK UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE**  
 14 **DEPARTMENT.**

15           ~~(C)~~ **(D) THE PARK FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK SHALL**  
 16 **CONSIST OF PROPERTIES IN NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN OR NEAR**  
 17 **THE COMMUNITIES OF BROOKEVILLE, OLNEY, SANDY SPRING, ZION, AND**  
 18 **LAYTONSVILLE THAT ARE:**

19                   **(1) OWNED BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS**  
 20 **PART OF THE PARK; AND**

21                   **(2) (I) OWNED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY AGENCY,**  
 22 **OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; AND**

23                                   **(II) DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE PARK BY A PARTNERSHIP**  
 24 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE STATE.**

25           ~~(D)~~ **(E)**       **(1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A STAKEHOLDER**  
 26 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SCOPE AND**  
 27 **MANAGEMENT OF ~~THE PARK~~ FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK.**

28                   **(2) THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF**  
 29 **THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

30                                   **(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF MONTGOMERY PARKS,**  
 31 **DESIGNATED BY MONTGOMERY PARKS' DIRECTOR OF PARKS;**

1 (II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HERITAGE TOURISM  
2 ALLIANCE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, DESIGNATED BY THE ALLIANCE'S  
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;

4 (III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SANDY SPRING SLAVE  
5 MUSEUM, DESIGNATED BY THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR;

6 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SANDY SPRING MUSEUM,  
7 DESIGNATED BY THE MUSEUM'S PRESIDENT; AND

8 (V) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE  
9 DEPARTMENT.

10 (3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY  
11 COMMITTEE SHALL REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY  
12 COUNTY.

13 ~~(E)~~ (F) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
14 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF  
15 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

16 (1) PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE IN NORTHEASTERN  
17 MONTGOMERY COUNTY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN FREEDMAN'S STATE  
18 HISTORICAL PARK;

19 (2) PROPERTY OWNED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY  
20 AGENCY, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY  
21 COUNTY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN ~~THE PARK~~ FREEDMAN'S STATE  
22 HISTORICAL PARK AND FOR WHICH THE LANDOWNERS ARE WILLING TO ENTER  
23 INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT; AND

24 (3) THE FUNDING NEEDED TO ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE ~~THE PARK~~  
25 FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK.

26 (G) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IF THE STATE  
27 ACQUIRES CARR'S BEACH FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING THE PROPERTY A STATE  
28 PARK, THAT THE PROPERTY SHALL BE A PARTNERSHIP PARK ESTABLISHED AND  
29 MAINTAINED IN A MANNER SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE REQUIREMENTS  
30 ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (B) THROUGH (D) OF THIS SECTION.

31 (H) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "WALDORF CORE ZONE" MEANS A  
32 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IN CHARLES COUNTY WITHIN THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES:

33 (I) NORTH OF BILLINGSLEY ROAD;

(II) SOUTH OF MATTAWOMAN CREEK;

(III) EAST OF BENSVILLE ROAD; AND

(IV) WEST OF MARYLAND ROUTE 5.

**(2) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IF THE STATE ACQUIRES PROPERTY IN THE WALDORF CORE ZONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING THE PROPERTY A STATE PARK, THE PROPERTY SHALL BE A PARTNERSHIP PARK ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED IN A MANNER SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (B) THROUGH (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

**(1) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IF THE STATE ACQUIRES HILL ROAD PARK IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING THE PROPERTY A STATE PARK, THE PROPERTY SHALL BE A PARTNERSHIP PARK ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED IN A MANNER SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (B) THROUGH (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

**Article – Agriculture**

2–505.

(a) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund is created and continued for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

(b) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund shall comprise:

(1) Any money made available to the Fund by general or special fund appropriations;

(2) Any money made available to the Fund by grants or transfers from governmental or private sources; and

(3) Any money received under § 2–513(c) of this subtitle.

**(1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF ~~\$18,564,469~~ \$16,564,469 TO THE FUND.**

**Article – Economic Development**

10–501.

1 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (f) "Corporation" means the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based  
3 Industry Development Corporation.

4 10-523.

5 (a) (1) The Corporation may receive annual funding through an appropriation  
6 in the State budget.

7 (2) The Corporation may also receive money for projects included in the  
8 budgets of State units.

9 (3) (i) To assist the Corporation in complying with subsection (c) of this  
10 section, the Governor shall include each year in the State budget bill an appropriation to  
11 the Corporation for rural business development and assistance as follows:

12 1. for fiscal year 2021, \$2,875,000; and

13 2. for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2025, \$2,735,000.

14 (ii) 1. **[In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2**  
15 **OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, IN** addition to any money provided under subparagraph (i) of  
16 this paragraph, the Governor may include each year in the State budget bill an  
17 appropriation to the Corporation in an amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 for rural land  
18 acquisition and easement programs, including programs to assist young and beginning  
19 farmers.

20 2. **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
21 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE**  
22 **AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000 TO THE CORPORATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**  
23 **FARMLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**

24 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

25 6-226.

26 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
27 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
28 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
29 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
30 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
31 Fund of the State.

1 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
2 to the following funds:

3 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;  
4 [and]

5 145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund;

6 **146. THE PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL MAINTENANCE FUND;**  
7 ~~AND~~

8 **147. THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND**  
9 **ACQUISITION FUND; AND**

10 **148. THE GREAT MARYLAND OUTDOORS FUND.**

11 13–109.

12 (a) In this section, “small procurement” means a procurement for which:

13 (1) a unit spends \$50,000 or less;

14 (2) a contractor provides services subject to § 11–202(3) of this article for  
15 expected annual revenues of \$50,000 or less;

16 (3) the Department of General Services or the Department of  
17 Transportation is seeking to award a procurement contract for a construction with a value  
18 that is \$100,000 or less; [or]

19 (4) **THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS SEEKING TO**  
20 **AWARD A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS OR MAINTENANCE**  
21 **WITH A VALUE THAT IS \$100,000 OR LESS; OR**

22 (5) for purposes of administering Title 29, Subtitle 1 of the State Personnel  
23 and Pensions Article, the State Retirement Agency spends \$50,000 or less during a fiscal  
24 year for:

25 (i) expenses related to independent medical evaluations by a  
26 physician; and

27 (ii) any expenses related to testimony by the physician at  
28 administrative hearings on behalf of the Agency.

29 (b) A unit may make small procurements in accordance with the regulations of  
30 primary procurement units.

1 (c) A primary procurement unit may not create a small procurement by artificial  
2 division of a procurement.

3 (d) Any regulation of a primary procurement unit to govern small procurements:

4 (1) shall provide for a simplified administrative procedure;

5 (2) shall be consistent with the basic intent of this Division II; and

6 (3) may not be disadvantageous economically to the State.

7 (e) At least every 3 years, the Board shall:

8 (1) review the prevailing costs of labor and materials; and

9 (2) if warranted by changes in cost, recommend to the General Assembly  
10 appropriate adjustments in the ceiling for a small procurement.

### 11 Article – Tax – Property

12 13–209.

13 (g) (1) [(i) For each of fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the  
14 Governor shall include in the budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of  
15 \$2,500,000 to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based Industry Development  
16 Corporation for the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program authorized under §  
17 10–523(a)(3)(ii) of the Economic Development Article.

18 (ii) The appropriation required under subparagraph (i) of this  
19 paragraph:

20 1. represents reimbursement for 13.9% of the cumulative  
21 amount appropriated or transferred from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal  
22 year 2006; and

23 2. is not subject to the provisions of subsections (a) through  
24 (f) of this section.

25 (2) (i) 1. The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
26 fiscal year 2021 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
27 \$5,690,501.]

28 [2.] (I) The Governor shall include in [each of] the annual  
29 budget [bills] BILL for fiscal [years 2022 and] YEAR 2023 a General Fund appropriation to  
30 the special fund in the amount of \$12,500,000.

1                                   [3. The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
2 fiscal year 2024 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
3 \$6,809,499.]

4                                   (ii) The [appropriations] **APPROPRIATION** required under  
5 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

6                                   1. [are] **IS** not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b),  
7 (c), and (f) of this section;

8                                   2. shall be allocated as provided in subsection (d) of this  
9 section and § 5–903 of the Natural Resources Article; and

10                                  3. shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation from  
11 the General Fund to the special fund that:

12                                  A. exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;  
13 and

14                                  B. is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
15 this paragraph.

16                                  ~~[(3)]~~ **(2)** (i) [1.] The Governor shall include in [each of] the annual  
17 budget [bills] **BILL** for fiscal year [2019 and fiscal years] 2023 [through 2026] a General  
18 Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of \$6,000,000 [and for fiscal year  
19 2027 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of \$4,000,000] for  
20 park development and the critical maintenance of State projects located on lands managed  
21 by the Department of Natural Resources for public purposes.

22                                  [2. The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
23 fiscal year 2022 only a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
24 \$21,930,475 for the critical maintenance of State projects located on lands managed by the  
25 Department of Natural Resources for public purposes.]

26                                  (ii) The [appropriations] **APPROPRIATION** required under  
27 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

28                                  1. [are] **IS** not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b),  
29 (c), and (f) of this section; **AND**

30                                  2. [shall be made until the cumulative total amount  
31 appropriated under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph is equal to \$55,930,475; and

32                                  3.] shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation from  
33 the General Fund to the special fund that:



1 A. exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;

2 B. is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
3 this paragraph; and

4 C. supplements rather than supplants the Department of  
5 Natural Resources funding for the critical maintenance of State projects on State lands,  
6 based on the average critical maintenance budget of the 10 years preceding the  
7 appropriation.

8 **[(4)] (3)** (i) 1. **[Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the**  
9 **Governor shall appropriate from the General Fund to the special fund \$119,800,225, which**  
10 **equals the cumulative amount of the appropriations or transfers from the special fund to**  
11 **the General Fund for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475.**

12 2. For fiscal year 2022 only, the Governor shall include in the  
13 annual budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 to the State  
14 Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund established under § 8–205 of the Natural Resources  
15 Article to be used only to fund a pilot dredging project at Deep Creek Lake, which is not  
16 required to be matched by local funds.

17 3.] For **[each of] fiscal [years] YEAR 2023, [2024, 2025, 2026,**  
18 **and 2027,]** the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill a General Fund  
19 appropriation in the amount of \$2,500,000 to the Maryland Agricultural and  
20 Resource–Based Industry Development Corporation for the Next Generation Farmland  
21 Acquisition Program authorized under § 10–523(a)(3)(ii) of the Economic Development  
22 Article.

23 **[4.] 2.** For fiscal year 2025 only, the Governor shall include in the  
24 annual budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$2,735,000 to the  
25 Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based Industry Development Corporation  
26 established under Title 10, Subtitle 5 of the Economic Development Article to be used as  
27 follows:

28 A. \$2,300,000 to support the Corporation’s rural business  
29 loan programs and small matching grant programs; and

30 B. \$435,000 for grants and near–equity investments to:

31 I. support the creation or expansion of agricultural product  
32 aggregation and storage sites; and

33 II. facilitate participation in the Certified Local Farm  
34 Enterprise Program.

35 (ii) **[The Governor shall appropriate at least:**

- 1                   1.     \$8,230,475 on or before June 30, 2022;
- 2                   2.     an additional \$37,986,900 on or before June 30, 2026;
- 3                   3.     an additional \$48,221,900 on or before June 30, 2030; and
- 4                   4.     an additional \$25,360,950 on or before June 30, 2031.

5                   (iii)] The appropriations required under [subparagraphs]  
6 **SUBPARAGRAPH (i) [and (ii)]** of this paragraph:

7                   1.     [represent reimbursement for the cumulative amount of  
8 any appropriation or transfer from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal years  
9 2016, 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475;

10                   2.] are not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c),  
11 and (f) of this section;

12                   [3.] 2. Shall be allocated as provided in subsection (d) of this  
13 section and § 5–903 of the Natural Resources Article; **AND**

14                   [4. Shall be made until the cumulative total appropriated  
15 under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph is equal to the cumulative amount of any  
16 appropriation or transfer from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal years 2016,  
17 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475; and]

18                   [5.] 3. shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation from  
19 the General Fund to the special fund that:

20                   A. exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;  
21 and

22                   B. is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
23 this paragraph.

24                   **Article – Labor and Employment**

25 9–207.

26                   (a) A ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, A FOREST RANGER, A PARK RANGER, A~~  
27 **WILDLIFE RANGER, A** registered crew member, a paid law enforcement employee, or an  
28 individual engaged for fire fighting by the Department of Natural Resources is a covered  
29 employee.

1 (b) Notwithstanding § 9–203 of this subtitle, an individual engaged for fire  
2 fighting who otherwise would be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is  
3 a covered employee even if the fire fighting takes place outside of the State.

4 (c) Notwithstanding § 9–205 of this subtitle, an individual who otherwise would  
5 be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is a covered employee even if  
6 engaged temporarily or part time.

7 (d) For the purpose of this title, the Department of Natural Resources is the  
8 employer of an individual who is a covered employee under this section.

9 9–503.

10 ~~(a) A PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,~~  
11 ~~WILDLIFE RANGER, paid firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, paid rescue squad~~  
12 ~~member, paid advanced life support unit member, or sworn member of the Office of the~~  
13 ~~State Fire Marshal employed by an airport authority, a county, a fire control district, a~~  
14 ~~municipality, or the State or a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,~~  
15 ~~volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member who is a~~  
16 ~~covered employee under § 9–234 of this title is presumed to have an occupational disease~~  
17 ~~that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this title if:~~

18 ~~(1) the individual has heart disease, hypertension, or lung disease;~~

19 ~~(2) the heart disease, hypertension, or lung disease results in partial or~~  
20 ~~total disability or death; and~~

21 ~~(3) in the case of a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,~~  
22 ~~volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member, the~~  
23 ~~individual has met a suitable standard of physical examination before becoming a~~  
24 ~~firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit~~  
25 ~~member.~~

26 ~~(b) (1) A paid police officer employed by an airport authority, a county, the~~  
27 ~~Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State,~~  
28 ~~a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, or, subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a~~  
29 ~~deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy~~  
30 ~~sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George's County~~  
31 ~~deputy sheriff, Prince George's County correctional officer, or deputy sheriff of Allegany~~  
32 ~~County is presumed to be suffering from an occupational disease that was suffered in the~~  
33 ~~line of duty and is compensable under this title if:~~

34 ~~(i) the police officer, deputy sheriff, or correctional officer is~~  
35 ~~suffering from heart disease or hypertension; and~~

36 ~~(ii) the heart disease or hypertension results in partial or total~~  
37 ~~disability or death.~~

1           ~~(2) (i) A deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County~~  
 2 ~~detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer,~~  
 3 ~~Prince George's County deputy sheriff, or Prince George's County correctional officer is~~  
 4 ~~entitled to the presumption under this subsection only to the extent that the individual~~  
 5 ~~suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than the individual's heart~~  
 6 ~~disease or hypertension condition existing prior to the individual's employment as a deputy~~  
 7 ~~sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of~~  
 8 ~~Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George's County deputy~~  
 9 ~~sheriff, or Prince George's County correctional officer.~~

10           ~~(ii) To be eligible for the presumption under this subsection, a deputy~~  
 11 ~~sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of~~  
 12 ~~Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George's County deputy~~  
 13 ~~sheriff, or Prince George's County correctional officer, as a condition of employment, shall~~  
 14 ~~submit to a medical examination to determine any heart disease or hypertension condition~~  
 15 ~~existing prior to the individual's employment as a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County,~~  
 16 ~~Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery~~  
 17 ~~County correctional officer, Prince George's County deputy sheriff, or Prince George's~~  
 18 ~~County correctional officer.~~

19           ~~(e) A PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,~~  
 20 ~~WILDLIFE RANGER, paid firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, paid rescue squad~~  
 21 ~~member, paid advanced life support unit member, or a sworn member of the Office of the~~  
 22 ~~State Fire Marshal employed by an airport authority, a county, a fire control district, a~~  
 23 ~~municipality, or the State or a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,~~  
 24 ~~volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member who is a~~  
 25 ~~covered employee under § 9-234 of this title is presumed to be suffering from an~~  
 26 ~~occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this~~  
 27 ~~title if:~~

28           ~~(1) the individual has leukemia or prostate, rectal, throat, multiple~~  
 29 ~~myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, brain, testicular, bladder, kidney or renal cell, or~~  
 30 ~~breast cancer that is caused by contact with a toxic substance that the individual has~~  
 31 ~~encountered in the line of duty;~~

32           ~~(2) the individual has completed at least 10 years of cumulative service~~  
 33 ~~within the State as a firefighter, a fire fighting instructor, a rescue squad member, or an~~  
 34 ~~advanced life support unit member or in a combination of those jobs;~~

35           ~~(3) the cancer or leukemia results in partial or total disability or death; and~~

36           ~~(4) in the case of a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,~~  
 37 ~~volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member, the~~  
 38 ~~individual has met a suitable standard of physical examination before becoming a~~  
 39 ~~firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit~~  
 40 ~~member.~~

1 (d) (1) A ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE~~, **FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
2 **WILDLIFE RANGER**, paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural  
3 Resources who is a covered employee under § 9–207 of this title, and a park police officer of  
4 the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission is presumed to have an  
5 occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this  
6 title if the [employee] **INDIVIDUAL**:

7 (i) is suffering from Lyme disease; and

8 (ii) was not suffering from Lyme disease before assignment to a  
9 position that regularly places the employee in an outdoor wooded environment.

10 (2) The presumption under this subsection for a park police officer of the  
11 Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission shall only apply:

12 (i) during the time that the park police officer is assigned to a  
13 position that regularly places the park police officer in an outdoor wooded environment;  
14 and

15 (ii) for 3 years after the last date that the park police officer was  
16 assigned by the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to a position  
17 that regularly placed the officer in an outdoor wooded environment.

18 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any paid  
19 firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, sworn member of the Office of the State Fire  
20 Marshal, paid police officer, ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE~~, **FOREST RANGER, PARK**  
21 **RANGER, WILDLIFE RANGER**, paid law enforcement employee of the Department of  
22 Natural Resources, deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County  
23 detention officer, park police officer of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning  
24 Commission, deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City,  
25 Montgomery County correctional officer, deputy sheriff of Prince George’s County, or Prince  
26 George’s County correctional officer who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a), (b), (c),  
27 or (d) of this section or the dependents of those individuals shall receive the benefits in  
28 addition to any benefits that the individual or the dependents of the individual are entitled  
29 to receive under the retirement system in which the individual was a participant at the  
30 time of the claim.

31 (2) The benefits received under this title shall be adjusted so that the  
32 weekly total of those benefits and retirement benefits does not exceed the weekly salary  
33 that was paid to [the paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural  
34 Resources, a park police officer of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning  
35 Commission, firefighter, fire fighting instructor, sworn member of the Office of the State  
36 Fire Marshal, police officer, deputy sheriff, Prince George’s County or Montgomery County  
37 correctional officer, or Anne Arundel County detention officer] **AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED**  
38 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**Article – Tax – General**

1

2 10–209.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) “Correctional officer” means an individual who:

5 (i) was employed in:

6 1. a State correctional facility, as defined in § 1–101 of the  
7 Correctional Services Article;8 2. a local correctional facility, as defined in § 1–101 of the  
9 Correctional Services Article;10 3. a juvenile facility included in § 9–226 of the Human  
11 Services Article; or12 4. a facility of the United States that is equivalent to a State  
13 or local correctional facility or a juvenile facility included in § 9–226 of the Human Services  
14 Article; and15 (ii) is eligible to receive retirement income attributable to the  
16 individual’s employment under item (i) of this paragraph.17 (3) “Emergency services personnel” means emergency medical technicians  
18 or paramedics.

19 (4) (i) “Employee retirement system” means a plan:

20 1. established and maintained by an employer for the benefit  
21 of its employees; and22 2. qualified under § 401(a), § 403, or § 457(b) of the Internal  
23 Revenue Code.

24 (ii) “Employee retirement system” does not include:

25 1. an individual retirement account or annuity under § 408  
26 of the Internal Revenue Code;27 2. a Roth individual retirement account under § 408A of the  
28 Internal Revenue Code;

29 3. a rollover individual retirement account;

1   4.     a simplified employee pension under Internal Revenue  
2 Code § 408(k); or

3   5.     an ineligible deferred compensation plan under § 457(f) of  
4 the Internal Revenue Code.

5           (b)     Subject to subsections (d) and (e) of this section, to determine Maryland  
6 adjusted gross income, if, on the last day of the taxable year, a resident is at least 65 years  
7 old or is totally disabled or the resident's spouse is totally disabled, or the resident is at  
8 least 55 years old and is a retired ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE~~, **FOREST RANGER, PARK**  
9 **RANGER, WILDLIFE RANGER**, correctional officer, law enforcement officer, or fire, rescue,  
10 or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision  
11 of the State, an amount is subtracted from federal adjusted gross income equal to the lesser  
12 of:

13                   (1)     the cumulative or total annuity, pension, or endowment income from an  
14 employee retirement system included in federal adjusted gross income; or

15                   (2)     the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security Act computed  
16 under subsection (c) of this section, less any payment received as old age, survivors, or  
17 disability benefits under the Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, or both.

18           (c)     For purposes of subsection (b)(2) of this section, the Comptroller:

19                   (1)     shall determine the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security  
20 Act allowed for an individual who retired at age 65 for the prior calendar year; and

21                   (2)     may allow the subtraction to the nearest \$100.

22           (d)     Military retirement income that is included in the subtraction under §  
23 10-207(q) of this subtitle may not be taken into account for purposes of the subtraction  
24 under this section.

25           (e)     In the case of a retired ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE~~, **FOREST RANGER,**  
26 **PARK RANGER, WILDLIFE RANGER**, correctional officer, law enforcement officer, or fire,  
27 rescue, or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political  
28 subdivision of the State, the amount included under subsection (b)(1) of this section is  
29 limited to the first \$15,000 of retirement income that is attributable to the resident's  
30 employment as a ~~PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE~~, **FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
31 **WILDLIFE RANGER**, correctional officer, [a] law enforcement officer, or fire, rescue, or  
32 emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision of  
33 the State unless:

34                   (1)     the resident is at least 65 years old or is totally disabled; or

(2) the resident's spouse is totally disabled.

**Chapter 698 of the Acts of 2018**

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of [4] 7 years and, at the end of June 30, [2022] 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, on or before June 30, 2022, the Governor may transfer to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund established in § 5-221 of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, ~~\$60,000,000~~ \$43,126,072 of the funds for State land acquisition under Program Open Space in the special fund established under § 13-209 of the Tax – Property Article. A transfer of funds from the special fund established under § 13-209 of the Tax – Property Article to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund under this section may not be taken into account for purposes of determining any allocation or appropriation required under § 13-209(f) or (g) of the Tax – Property Article.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Parks and Recreation Commission established in § 5-2A-03 of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall provide oversight to the Maryland Park Service on the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2022, the Department of Natural Resources shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the possibility of reopening Fort Tonoloway State Park after the conclusion of the archaeological excavation of the park, including:

(1) whether the site of historic Fort Tonoloway is determined to be located within the park;

(2) if the site of historic Fort Tonoloway is located within the park, whether the site will be redesignated from a State park to be a historic site; and

(3) if the site of historic Fort Tonoloway is not located within the park, when the site will be reopened to the public for recreational use.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2022, the Department of Budget and Management shall revise the job title of employees with the job title “Park Service Associate” to have the job title “State Park Ranger”.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before October 1, 2023, the Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Labor, shall:



1           (1) identify opportunities to create registered apprenticeship programs to  
2 help address workforce shortages and the career workforce needs of the Department of  
3 Natural Resources, including:

4                   (i) apprenticeships that allow an individual to earn a college degree;  
5 and

6                   (ii) registered apprenticeships for high school students; and

7           (2) report the findings under subsection (1) of this section to the Senate  
8 Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance  
9 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

10           SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (S.B. 942/H.B.  
11 855) does not take effect, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an  
12 appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund, in  
13 addition to any other funds required to be appropriated to the Fund under this Act.

14           SECTION ~~4~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 ~~July~~ June 1, 2022.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.