

# HOUSE BILL 731

M1, R1

5lr2121  
CF SB 635

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By: **Delegates Ruth, Lehman, Addison, Allen, Foley, Guyton, Hill, Palakovich Carr, Stein, Terrasa, Valderrama, ~~and Woods~~ Woods, Behler, and Healey**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2025

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wildlife – Protections and Highway Crossings**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Connectivity Coalition; establishing that  
4 the State Highway Administration has final decision-making authority regarding  
5 certain decisions; ~~establishing the Wildlife Connectivity Fund; requiring the~~  
6 ~~Department of Natural Resources to develop a website to be used for accepting~~  
7 ~~donations for certain purposes;~~ requiring the State Highway Administration to  
8 include certain information in each consolidated transportation plan of the State;  
9 requiring a county or local jurisdiction to consider certain factors when enacting,  
10 adopting, amending, or executing a comprehensive plan; and generally relating to  
11 wildlife protection.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 10–2A–01(a), (d), and (l)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 10–2A–06.2  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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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 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 2 Article – Land Use  
 3 Section 1–408 and 3–104  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

6 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~  
 7 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 8 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)~~  
 9 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 10 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

11 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
 12 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 13 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii) 204 and 205.~~  
 14 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 15 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

16 ~~BY adding to~~  
 17 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 18 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii) 206.~~  
 19 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 20 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

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

23 **Article – Natural Resources**

24 10–2A–01.

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

26 (d) (1) “Endangered species” means any species whose continued existence as  
 27 a viable component of the State’s wildlife or plants is determined to be in jeopardy.

28 (2) “Endangered species” includes any species of wildlife or plant  
 29 determined to be an “endangered species” pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

30 (l) “Threatened species” means any species of wildlife or plants which appears  
 31 likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered including any species of wildlife  
 32 or plant determined to be a “threatened species” pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

33 **10–2A–06.2.**

1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3 (2) "COALITION" MEANS THE MARYLAND CONNECTIVITY  
4 COALITION.

5 (3) "ENDANGERED SPECIES" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
6 10-2A-01 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 ~~(4) "FUND" MEANS THE WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY FUND.~~

8 ~~(5)~~ (4) "THREATENED SPECIES" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
9 10-2A-01 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 ~~(6)~~ (5) "WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY" MEANS THE ABILITY OF  
11 WILDLIFE TO MOVE FREELY BETWEEN HABITATS TO ACCESS RESOURCES, MAINTAIN  
12 HEALTHY POPULATIONS, AND ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES.

13 ~~(7)~~ (6) "WILDLIFE CROSSINGS" MEANS IMPROVEMENTS TO ROADS,  
14 BRIDGES, OR HIGHWAYS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY OR TO  
15 REDUCE COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE.

16 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CONNECTIVITY COALITION.

17 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COALITION IS TO FOSTER COLLABORATION  
18 AMONG STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
19 AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO:

20 (I) PROTECT THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FROM  
21 HABITAT FRAGMENTATION THAT REDUCES ACCESS TO RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD  
22 OR POTENTIAL MATES;

23 (II) PROTECT MOTORISTS AND WILDLIFE IN THE STATE BY  
24 REDUCING COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE; AND

25 (III) FACILITATE THE SHARING OF RESOURCES, DATA, AND  
26 EXPERTISE RELATING TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.

27 (3) THE COALITION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

28 (I) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE  
29 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

1 (II) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR, OR THE  
2 ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE;

3 (III) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED  
4 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

5 (IV) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED  
6 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

7 (V) REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY OTHER STATE AGENCIES,  
8 FEDERAL AGENCIES, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL  
9 COALITIONS, OR PRIVATE ENTITIES SELECTED BY THE SECRETARY AND THE STATE  
10 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR.

11 (4) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR OR THE  
12 ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE COALITION.

13 (5) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
14 SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE COALITION, INCLUDING:

15 (I) MEMBERSHIP IN THE COALITION;

16 (II) THE ROLE OF ANY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
17 OR PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION;

18 (III) THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEADERSHIP OF  
19 THE COALITION; AND

20 (IV) MEETING RULES AND PROCEDURES.

21 ~~(5)~~ (6) (I) THE COALITION SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR  
22 PRIORITIZING WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS.

23 (II) CRITERIA DEVELOPED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
24 PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE:

25 1. LOCATIONS WITH A HIGH NUMBER OF COLLISIONS  
26 BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE;

27 2. LOCATIONS WHERE HIGHWAYS DIVIDE THE HABITAT  
28 OF THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES;

29 3. LOCATIONS WHERE WILDLIFE CROSSINGS COULD BE  
30 DESIGNED TO FACILITATE MULTIPLE SPECIES;

1 4. EQUITY IN DISTRIBUTING FUNDS BETWEEN:

2 A. DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE STATE; AND

3 B. URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL AREAS; AND

4 5. ANY OTHER CRITERIA IDENTIFIED BY THE  
5 COALITION.

6 ~~(6)~~ (7) THE COALITION SHALL DEVELOP PERFORMANCE METRICS  
7 TO EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF FUNDED PROJECTS, INCLUDING:

8 (I) MEASURABLE OUTCOMES, SUCH AS REDUCTIONS IN  
9 COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE; AND

10 (II) ENHANCEMENTS TO HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.

11 ~~(7)~~ (8) (I) ~~THE EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF~~  
12 THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COALITION SHALL MEET QUARTERLY TO:

13 ~~(I)~~ 1. SHARE NEW DATA, ANALYSES, AND RESEARCH;

14 ~~(II)~~ 2. IDENTIFY ANY ADDITIONAL DATA, ANALYSES, OR  
15 RESEARCH NEEDED;

16 ~~(III)~~ 3. UPDATE THE MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF PLANNED  
17 OR ONGOING WILDLIFE CROSSINGS;

18 ~~(IV)~~ 4. IDENTIFY LOCATIONS WHERE ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE  
19 CONNECTIVITY IS NEEDED; AND

20 ~~(V)~~ 5. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ~~DISBURSEMENTS~~  
21 FROM THE FUND FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY.

22 (II) THE COALITION MAY CANCEL A MEETING FOR LACK OF AN  
23 AGENDA.

24 ~~(8)~~ (9) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL HAVE FINAL  
25 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY REGARDING ANY DECISION RELATING TO THE  
26 PLACEMENT, FUNDING, OR DESIGN OF WILDLIFE CROSSINGS.

27 ~~(9)~~ (10) THE COALITION SHALL DEVELOP A WEBSITE AND PUBLISH  
28 ON ITS WEBSITE:

1 (I) THE PURPOSE, HISTORY, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
2 COALITION;

3 (II) ANY CRITERIA USED FOR PRIORITIZING PROJECTS;

4 (III) ANY DATA, ANALYSES, OR RESEARCH RELEVANT TO THE  
5 PURPOSE OF THE COALITION;

6 (IV) COALITION MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES;

7 (V) INFORMATION TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE  
8 IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS; AND

9 (VI) COMPLETED WILDLIFE CROSSINGS AND WILDLIFE  
10 CROSSINGS UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

11 (C) ~~(1) THERE IS A WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY FUND.~~

12 ~~(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:~~

13 ~~(I) PROTECT ANY TERRESTRIAL OR SEMIAQUATIC~~  
14 ~~THREATENED SPECIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR SPECIES OF GREATEST~~  
15 ~~CONSERVATION NEED WHOSE HABITAT OR MOVEMENT CORRIDORS INTERSECT~~  
16 ~~WITH A STATE HIGHWAY; AND~~

17 ~~(II) PROTECT MOTORISTS AND WILDLIFE IN THE STATE BY~~  
18 ~~REDUCING COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE.~~

19 ~~(3) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE~~  
20 ~~HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.~~

21 ~~(4) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT~~  
22 ~~SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

23 ~~(II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND~~  
24 ~~SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

25 ~~(5) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:~~

26 ~~(I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE~~  
27 ~~FUND;~~

28 ~~(II) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND~~

1 ~~(III) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED~~  
2 ~~FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.~~

3 ~~(6) THE FUND MAY BE USED TO:~~

4 ~~(I) ADVANCE WILDLIFE CROSSING OR WILDLIFE VEHICLE~~  
5 ~~COLLISION MITIGATION PROJECTS;~~

6 ~~(II) ASSIST WITH PREPARATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE~~  
7 ~~PROJECTS SPECIFIED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, INCLUDING DATA~~  
8 ~~COLLECTION, FEASIBILITY STUDIES, PROJECT DESIGN, AND ENGINEERING, WHICH~~  
9 ~~MAY INCLUDE HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS AND SIZING;~~

10 ~~(III) DEVELOP METHODS AND TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING~~  
11 ~~LOCATIONS WHERE WILDLIFE CROSSING OR WILDLIFE VEHICLE COLLISION~~  
12 ~~MITIGATION PROJECTS WOULD:~~

13 ~~1. REDUCE COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND~~  
14 ~~WILDLIFE; OR~~

15 ~~2. CONNECT HABITATS OF TERRESTRIAL OR~~  
16 ~~SEMI-AQUATIC THREATENED SPECIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR SPECIES OF~~  
17 ~~GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED;~~

18 ~~(IV) DEVELOP REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE HABITAT MAPS TO~~  
19 ~~IMPROVE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY OR REDUCE COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES~~  
20 ~~AND WILDLIFE;~~

21 ~~(V) CONSTRUCT EXCLUSIONARY FENCING;~~

22 ~~(VI) PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR FEDERAL GRANTS;~~

23 ~~(VII) PROVIDE MAINTENANCE FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS;~~

24 ~~(VIII) MONITOR AND EVALUATE COMPLETED PROJECTS;~~

25 ~~(IX) PROVIDE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH REGARDING:~~

26 ~~1. COLLISIONS BETWEEN VEHICLES AND WILDLIFE;~~

27 ~~2. THREATENED SPECIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR~~  
28 ~~SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED WHOSE HABITATS OR MOVEMENT~~  
29 ~~CORRIDORS ARE DIVIDED BY STATE HIGHWAYS; AND~~

1 ~~3. ANY OTHER RELATED TOPIC THE DEPARTMENT OR~~  
2 ~~STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES IS APPROPRIATE;~~

3 ~~(X) PROVIDE MATCHING GRANTS TO COUNTIES AND~~  
4 ~~MUNICIPALITIES FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND;~~

5 ~~(XI) COVER THE COSTS OF RELEVANT ADMINISTRATION AND~~  
6 ~~PERSONNEL EXPENSES, INCLUDING:~~

7 ~~1. COST RECOVERY;~~

8 ~~2. GIS DATA; AND~~

9 ~~3. ANY OTHER RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; AND~~

10 ~~(XII) COVER THE COSTS OF ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE~~  
11 ~~CROSSING INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING PLANNING, INVENTORY, CONDITION~~  
12 ~~INFORMATION, AND LIFE-CYCLE ANALYSES.~~

13 ~~(7) (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE~~  
14 ~~FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.~~

15 ~~(H) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE~~  
16 ~~CREDITED TO THE FUND.~~

17 ~~(8) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN~~  
18 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.~~

19 ~~(9) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROTECTIONS~~  
20 ~~SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS~~  
21 ~~NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE~~  
22 ~~APPROPRIATED FOR THESE PROTECTIONS.~~

23 ~~(10) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION~~  
24 ~~AND THE COALITION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE FUND~~  
25 ~~TO THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3-216 OF THE~~  
26 ~~TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF~~  
27 ~~THE FUND.~~

28 ~~(11) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION~~  
29 ~~SHALL COORDINATE EFFORTS WITH FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING~~  
30 ~~OPPORTUNITIES TO MAXIMIZE PROJECT IMPACTS AND USE ALL AVAILABLE~~  
31 ~~RESOURCES.~~



1 ~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

2 ~~(1) DEVELOP A WEBSITE TO BE USED FOR ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO~~  
3 ~~THE FUND; AND~~

4 ~~(2) IF FEASIBLE, WORK WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE~~  
5 ~~ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE THE OPTION, APPEARING ON THE VEHICLE~~  
6 ~~REGISTRATION PORTAL, TO DONATE TO THE FUND.~~

7 ~~(E) (1) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL REPORT ON~~  
8 ~~WILDLIFE CROSSINGS IN EACH CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN OF THE~~  
9 ~~STATE.~~

10 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
11 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

12 (I) TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND EXPENDITURES FOR  
13 WILDLIFE CROSSINGS;

14 (II) WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PLANNED AND IN PROCESS; AND

15 (III) PERFORMANCE METRICS AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES  
16 EVALUATING THE SUCCESS OF COMPLETED WILDLIFE CROSSINGS.

17 ~~(F) (D)~~ THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
18 MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
19 SUBTITLE.

## 20 Article – Land Use

21 1–408.

22 (a) (1) A sensitive areas element shall include the goals, objectives, principles,  
23 policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the adverse effects of  
24 development.

25 (2) A CHARTER COUNTY SHALL CONSIDER WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND  
26 HABITAT CONNECTIVITY WHEN ENACTING, ADOPTING, AMENDING, OR EXECUTING  
27 A PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 1–405 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

28 (b) (1) Beginning October 1, 2013, the Department of Natural Resources shall  
29 provide a statewide forest resource inventory to local jurisdictions at least every 5 years,  
30 to be available for the local comprehensive plan review by local jurisdictions required  
31 under § 1–416(a) of this subtitle and § 3–301(a) of this article.

1           **(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE**  
 2 **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE HIGHWAY**  
 3 **ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE EACH CHARTER COUNTY WITH UPDATED**  
 4 **INFORMATION ON HABITAT CONNECTIVITY CONCERNS AND CURRENT AND**  
 5 **PLANNED WILDLIFE CROSSINGS.**

6           (c) Before the plan is adopted, the Department of the Environment and the  
 7 Department of Natural Resources shall review the sensitive areas element to determine  
 8 whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of the departments.

9 3-104.

10           (a) **(1)** A sensitive areas element shall include the goals, objectives, principles,  
 11 policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the adverse effects of  
 12 development.

13           **(2) A LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL CONSIDER WILDLIFE MOVEMENT**  
 14 **AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY WHEN ENACTING, ADOPTING, AMENDING, OR**  
 15 **EXECUTING A PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-101 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

16           (b) **(1)** Beginning October 1, 2013, the Department of Natural Resources shall  
 17 provide a statewide forest resource inventory to local jurisdictions at least every 5 years,  
 18 to be available for the local comprehensive plan review by local jurisdictions required  
 19 under §§ 1-416(a) and 3-301(a) of this article.

20           **(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE**  
 21 **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE HIGHWAY**  
 22 **ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE EACH LOCAL JURISDICTION WITH UPDATED**  
 23 **INFORMATION ON HABITAT CONNECTIVITY CONCERNS AND CURRENT AND**  
 24 **PLANNED WILDLIFE CROSSINGS.**

25           (c) Before the plan is adopted, the Department of the Environment and the  
 26 Department of Natural Resources shall review the sensitive areas element to determine  
 27 whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of the departments.

28           ~~Article State Finance and Procurement~~

29 ~~6-226.~~

30           ~~(a) (2) (i) 1. This subparagraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024~~  
 31 ~~through 2028.~~

32           ~~2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless~~  
 33 ~~inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the~~  
 34 ~~terms of a gift or settlement, not interest on State money allocated by the State Treasurer~~  
 35 ~~under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest~~

1 ~~earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the~~  
2 ~~State.~~

3 (ii) ~~The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply~~  
4 ~~to the following funds:~~

5 ~~204. the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund;~~  
6 ~~[and]~~

7 ~~205. the Proposed Programs Collaborative Grant Program;~~  
8 ~~AND~~

9 ~~206. THE WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY FUND.~~

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
11 1, 2025.

Approved:

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

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

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