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Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Executive Agencies - Maryland Youth Corps - Creation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Youth Corps; authorizing the
4 Secretary of each Department to enroll certain individuals in the Corps under
5 certain circumstances; authorizing a certain Secretary to utilize the Corps in a
6 certain manner under certain circumstances; requiring a Secretary to give
7 preference to certain projects; requiring a certain Secretary to provide a
8 reasonable living allowance under certain circumstances; prohibiting a
9 Secretary from replacing State employees with members of the Corps; requiring
10 a member of the Corps to agree to participate for a certain amount of time;
11 prohibiting a Secretary from paying more than a certain amount of a certain
12 project; authorizing a Secretary to accept certain funds, services, materials, or
13 equipment; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment
14 of the Maryland Youth Corps.

15 BY adding to
16 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
17 Section 18-601 through 18-606, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
18 6. Maryland Youth Corps"
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

23 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

24 **SUBTITLE 6. MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS.**

25 18-601.

26 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
27 INDICATED.

1 (B) "APPROPRIATE CONSERVATION PROJECT" MEANS ANY PROJECT FOR THE
2 CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, CONSTRUCTION, OR REHABILITATION OF STATE
3 RESOURCES.

4 (C) "STATE LANDS" MEANS ANY LANDS OR WATERS OWNED OR
5 ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE.

6 (D) "QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CONSERVATION CORPS" MEANS ANY PROGRAM
7 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR BY A NONPROFIT
8 ORGANIZATION THAT FULFILLS THE PURPOSE STATED IN § 18-602 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
9 18-602.

10 (A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS:

11 (1) THAT PARTICIPATION IN IMPORTANT PUBLIC STATE PROJECTS
12 THROUGH THE USE OF A MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS CAN BENEFIT CITIZENS BY
13 PROVIDING THEM WITH EDUCATION AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES, FURTHERING
14 THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE STATE PROJECTS, AND
15 PROVIDING A METHOD TO PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
16 BENEFITTING THE STATE'S ECONOMY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT;

17 (2) MUCH OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC LANDS ARE IN NEED OF
18 LABOR-INTENSIVE REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND OTHER
19 WORK WHICH CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT BY STATE AGENCIES AT EXISTING
20 PERSONNEL LEVELS; AND

21 (3) YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD RECORD
22 OF RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THESE KINDS OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES IN
23 A COST-EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE
24 WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

25 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO:

26 (1) PERFORM, IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER, APPROPRIATE STATE
27 PROJECTS ON STATE LANDS WHERE THE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE PERFORMED BY
28 EXISTING EMPLOYEES;

29 (2) ASSIST THE STATE IN PERFORMING RESEARCH AND PUBLIC
30 EDUCATION TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECTS ON STATE LANDS;

31 (3) EXPOSE INDIVIDUALS TO PUBLIC SERVICE WHILE FURTHERING
32 THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE STATE'S RESOURCES;

33 (4) EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY REWARDING
34 INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN STATE SERVICE WITH AN INCREASED ABILITY TO
35 PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION OR JOB TRAINING; AND

36 (5) STIMULATE INTEREST AMONG THE STATE'S CITIZENS IN PUBLIC
37 SERVICE CAREERS BY EXPOSING THEM TO PUBLIC SERVICE.

1 18-603.

2 (A) THERE IS IN EACH DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE A MARYLAND YOUTH
3 CORPS.

4 (B) (1) THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS SHALL CONSIST OF INDIVIDUALS
5 BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 25, WHO ARE ENROLLED AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE
6 MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS BY THE SECRETARY OF EACH DEPARTMENT.

7 (2) A SECRETARY MAY ENROLL AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE MARYLAND
8 YOUTH CORPS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE STATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

9 (3) A SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH A PREFERENCE FOR THE
10 ENROLLMENT IN THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
11 ECONOMICALLY, PHYSICALLY, OR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED.

12 (C) A SECRETARY MAY ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR COOPERATIVE
13 AGREEMENT WITH A QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CONSERVATION CORPS TO PERFORM
14 APPROPRIATE PUBLIC PROJECTS REFERRED TO IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS
15 SECTION.

16 (D) (1) A SECRETARY MAY UTILIZE THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS OR ANY
17 QUALIFIED YOUTH OR CONSERVATION CORPS TO COMPLETE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC
18 PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE SECRETARY IS AUTHORIZED.

19 (2) A SECRETARY MAY UTILIZE THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS TO
20 DEVELOP A DISASTER PREVENTION OR RELIEF EFFORT IN RESPONSE TO AN
21 EMERGENCY OR MAJOR DISASTER DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR.

22 (E) A SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO THOSE PROJECTS WHICH:

23 (1) WILL PROVIDE LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC;

24 (2) WILL ASSIST A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS IN
25 DEVELOPING A WORK ETHIC AND A SENSE OF PUBLIC SERVICE;

26 (3) WILL BE LABOR INTENSIVE;

27 (4) CAN BE PLANNED AND INITIATED PROMPTLY; AND

28 (5) WILL PROVIDE ACADEMIC, EXPERIENTIAL, OR ENVIRONMENTAL
29 EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

30 (F) EACH PUBLIC PROJECT ON STATE LAND SHALL BE PERFORMED IN
31 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.

32 18-604.

33 (A) EACH SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE MARYLAND
34 YOUTH CORPS WITH A REASONABLE LIVING ALLOWANCE.

1 (B) EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS SHALL AGREE TO
2 PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC PROJECT CORPS FOR SUCH TERM OF SERVICE AS MAY
3 BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.

4 18-605.

5 A SECRETARY MAY NOT REPLACE STATE EMPLOYEES WITH MEMBERS OF THE
6 MARYLAND YOUTH CORPS.

7 18-606.

8 (A) EACH SECRETARY MAY ACCEPT FUNDS, SERVICES, FACILITIES,
9 MATERIALS, OR EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATING THE MARYLAND
10 YOUTH CORPS.

11 (B) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE ANY
12 FUNDING FOR ANY PROJECT CARRIED OUT DIRECTLY BY THE MARYLAND YOUTH
13 CORPS.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2002.