

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 313

(Delegate Stein)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Woodland Incentives Fund - Renaming

This bill changes the name of the Woodland Incentives Fund (WIF) to the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund and clarifies that the fund may receive Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Funds.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: WIF was created to help fund a variety of forest-related programs. Among other things, WIF revenues must be used to (1) provide cost-share assistance to private forest land owners for tree planting, site preparation, and timber stand improvement; (2) provide annual grants to forest conservancy district boards; (3) establish a forest health emergency contingency program; and (4) provide financial assistance for the administration of an urban and community forestry program.

WIF revenue sources include up to \$200,000 annually in agricultural land transfer tax revenue from land that is entirely woodland; Department of Natural Resources (DNR) charges imposed for assisting with implementation of approved practices; and, subject to specified approval, revenues derived from forestry practices on specified DNR lands. In addition, the BayStat Subcabinet is authorized to distribute funds from the Chesapeake

and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund to WIF, in accordance with its work and expenditure plan.

Melvin L. Noland planted thousands of trees throughout the State that improved natural habitat, beautified communities, and provided a living classroom for students. Mr. Noland served on the Maryland Forest Association's Board of Governors, the Baltimore County Forestry Council, and the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. Mr. Noland received many awards for his dedication to environmental education and the Chesapeake Bay, including the Chesapeake Bay Trust's 2003 Ellen Fraites Wagner Award. Mr. Noland passed away in August 2010.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2011
mm/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 2011

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