

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 115

(Senator Edwards)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

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**Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board – Membership and Duties**

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This bill adds the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of the Environment (or their designees) to the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board as nonvoting ex officio members. The bill also requires the board to review and advise the Secretary of the Environment on matters that relate to Deep Creek Lake and are within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Environment. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board:

- is required to review and advise the Secretary of Natural Resources on matters that relate to the Deep Creek Lake Recreation Maintenance and Management Fund (which receives revenues from boat launching fees, lake and buffer use permit fees, and other sources) and the Deep Creek Lake management program;
- is authorized to review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Natural Resources on budgetary matters that concern the management and maintenance of the lake and buffer area; and

- has joint responsibility, along with the Secretary of Natural Resources, for the preparation of a Deep Creek Lake recreation and land use plan and approval of any changes to boat launching fees or lake and buffer use permit fees.

The board meets at least four times a year in Garrett County and consists of General Assembly members; Garrett County government, property owner, and business representatives; and five members appointed by the Governor, as specified.

**Background:** In 1980, the State assumed responsibility for management of recreation and access at Deep Creek Lake (which was created in 1925 when the Deep Creek hydroelectric project was constructed). Ownership of the lake bottom, buffer zone properties around the lake, and certain other properties was transferred to the State by General Public Utility, Inc. in 2000. Also in 2000, Chapters 560 and 561 modified and established various provisions governing the State's management of the lake, including the creation of the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board.

The Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Garrett County entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2016, establishing a cooperative partnership focused on maintaining and improving Deep Creek Lake and its watershed. The term of the MOU ends September 30, 2018.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 219 (Delegate Beitzel) – Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2018  
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