



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

January 31, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 305 - First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Maryland Geological Survey Fund – Establishment

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports this legislation to provide additional flexibility and transparency to the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) as it does not have a non-lapsing special fund account. This special fund will not have a dedicated revenue stream; but rather, the intent of the Department is to capitalize on revenue received from work the MGS does to provide better opportunities for long term planning and budgeting for the MGS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Maryland Geological Survey routinely is funded through various outside contracts including counties, Baltimore City, non-profit organizations such as American Rivers, and private industry such as Battelle and WSSC. These special funds currently flow through a special fund account which is not in statute, is lapsing at the end of the fiscal year, and does not bear interest. The contracts, at times, run for several years, do not align with the State Fiscal year, and utilize equipment and supplies that depreciate over time. The establishment of this fund would allow these special funds to be properly managed and clearly documented in how the funds are utilized.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill would establish a non-lapsing, interest bearing special fund for the Maryland Geological Survey.

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