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**By: Chairman, Appropriations Committee (Departmental - Natural Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Waterway Improvement Fund - Appropriation**

3 FOR the purpose of removing the limit on the amount which may be appropriated from  
4 the Waterway Improvement Fund for certain purposes.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article - Natural Resources  
7 Section 8-709  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Natural Resources**

13 8-709.

14 (a) The Department shall include in its annual budget request an itemized list of  
15 requests for the use of any available money from the Waterway Improvement Fund for  
16 the projects under § 8-707 of this subtitle. The Department's list shall include a brief  
17 description of each project, an estimate of its cost, and the benefits to be derived from it.  
18 The list shall designate which projects are financed solely by the Waterway Improvement  
19 Fund, which are matching fund projects, and which are interest-free loan projects.

20 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, in any fiscal  
21 year the Department may expend from the Waterway Improvement Fund without  
22 legislative approval a total sum of not more than \$225,000. Of this amount, a sum of not  
23 more than \$125,000 may be expended for small projects under § 8-707(3) and (4) of this  
24 subtitle, subject to the limitation that a single project of this kind may not exceed \$5,000  
25 in cost to the Waterway Improvement Fund, and a sum of not more than \$100,000 may be  
26 expended for boating safety and education.

27 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the  
28 Department may propose in its annual budget, beginning with the fiscal year 1994 budget,  
29 an appropriation [of not more than \$1,000,000] from the Waterway Improvement Fund  
30 to support marine operations in the Natural Resources Police.

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1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 July 1, 1997.