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By: **Delegates McIntosh, Rosenberg, Hammen, and Krysiak**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Natural Resources - Forest and Tree Management - Assistance to Nonprofit**  
3                                   **Corporations**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to provide,  
5     under certain circumstances, State or federal financial assistance and technical  
6     assistance to nonprofit corporations that participate in certain urban and  
7     community forestry programs; authorizing the Department to provide certain  
8     grants to and enter into certain contracts with certain nonprofit corporations  
9     under the Green Shores Program; and generally relating to planting and  
10    managing forests and trees in the State.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12    Article - Natural Resources  
13    Section 5-424, 5-425, and 5-428  
14    Annotated Code of Maryland  
15    (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17    Article - Natural Resources  
18    Section 5-426, 5-427(b), 5-429, and 5-430  
19    Annotated Code of Maryland  
20    (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

23                                   **Article - Natural Resources**

24 5-424.

25       "Urban and community forestry" means the management of forests and trees in  
26 urban and community areas to improve their health, vigor, and composition.

1 5-425.

2 The General Assembly finds and declares that forests and trees are an  
3 important and necessary part of the urban and community environment and that the  
4 retention, enhancement, and management of these forests and trees by local  
5 governments is in the best interest of the citizens of this State.

6 5-426.

7 (a) (1) The Department shall establish and administer an urban and  
8 community forestry program to provide State or federal financial assistance, on a  
9 matching basis, to:

10 (I) [a] A county or municipal corporation that implements a local  
11 urban and community forestry program within its jurisdiction; OR

12 (II) A NONPROFIT CORPORATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE  
13 IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM.

14 (2) The county or municipal corporation may hire an individual to direct  
15 its program with the cooperation of the Department.

16 (b) The Department's urban and community forestry program shall provide  
17 technical assistance to counties, municipal corporations, NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS,  
18 and individuals for the retention and management of forests and trees. This technical  
19 assistance may include:

20 (1) Street tree inventories;

21 (2) Technical evaluation of site development plans;

22 (3) Management recommendations for the retention, protection and  
23 utilization of forests and trees in developments;

24 (4) Assistance to planning and zoning departments;

25 (5) Advice on insect and disease control; [and]

26 (6) Advice to counties and municipal corporations in implementing and  
27 conducting their own urban and community forestry program; AND

28 (7) ADVICE TO NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE  
29 IMPLEMENTATION OF AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM.

30 5-427.

31 (b) The Department may accept federal funds and provide funds, on a  
32 matching basis, to:

33 (1) [cooperating] COOPERATING counties and municipal corporations for  
34 the purpose of administering an urban and community forestry program; AND

1 (2) NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE  
2 IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY  
3 FORESTRY PROGRAM.

4 5-428.

5 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

6 (1) Forests and trees play an important role in the restoration and  
7 enhancement of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

8 (2) The establishment and supplementation of forests and trees along  
9 the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is in the best interests of the  
10 State.

11 5-429.

12 (a) The Department shall establish a Green Shores Program to promote and  
13 cause the planting and maintenance of forested buffers around the Chesapeake Bay  
14 and its tributaries.

15 (b) The Green Shores Program may include:

16 (1) Providing grants in the form of trees, money, materials, or expertise  
17 to local governments, NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS, and State agencies to be used for  
18 planting or enhancing forested buffers around the Chesapeake Bay and its  
19 tributaries;

20 (2) Educating the public about the benefits of trees and forested buffers,  
21 including:

22 (i) Establishing demonstration forest buffers on public lands;

23 (ii) Providing educational and promotional materials to schools;

24 (iii) Providing grants to schools for their own educational programs;

25 (iv) Developing and disseminating educational and promotional  
26 materials to the public; and

27 (v) Coordinating volunteer efforts; and

28 (3) Promoting forested buffers on private land by providing:

29 (i) Technical assistance, such as preparing site plans and  
30 coordinating planting arrangements; and

31 (ii) Economic incentives, including cost-sharing programs.

1 5-430.

2 (a) In order to implement the Green Shores Program, the Department may:

3 (1) Enter into contractual agreements with other State agencies, local  
4 governments, NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS, and private citizens who receive  
5 payments or grants;

6 (2) Set priorities by watersheds for the dissemination of grants and  
7 payments; and

8 (3) Adopt regulations.

9 (b) Any contractual agreement that the Department enters into under the  
10 Green Shores Program shall specify the terms of the grant or payment.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2003.