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

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, February 21, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2003

CHAPTER _____

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:

1 **Article - Natural Resources**

2 5-424.

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

5 5-425.

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

10 5-426.

11 (a) (1) The Department shall establish and administer an urban and
12 community forestry program to provide State or federal financial assistance, on a
13 matching basis, to:14 (I) [a] A county or municipal corporation that implements a local
15 urban and community forestry program within its jurisdiction; OR16 (II) A NONPROFIT CORPORATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE
17 IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM.18 (2) The county or municipal corporation may hire an individual to direct
19 its program with the cooperation of the Department.20 (b) The Department's urban and community forestry program shall provide
21 technical assistance to counties, municipal corporations, NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS,
22 and individuals for the retention and management of forests and trees. This technical
23 assistance may include:

24 (1) Street tree inventories;

25 (2) Technical evaluation of site development plans;

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

28 (4) Assistance to planning and zoning departments;

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

30 (6) Advice to counties and municipal corporations in implementing and
31 conducting their own urban and community forestry program; AND32 (7) ADVICE TO NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE
33 IMPLEMENTATION OF AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM.

1 5-427.

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

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

6 (2) NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE
7 IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY
8 FORESTRY PROGRAM.

9 5-428.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

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

13 (2) The establishment and supplementation of forests and trees along
14 the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is in the best interests of the residents of the
15 State.

16 5-429.

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

20 (b) The Green Shores Program may include:

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

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

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

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

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

30 (iv) Developing and disseminating educational and promotional
31 materials to the public; and

32 (v) Coordinating volunteer efforts; and

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

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

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

4 5-430.

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

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

9 (2) Set priorities by watersheds for the dissemination of grants and
10 payments; and

11 (3) Adopt regulations.

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

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