

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 907

(Delegate McIntosh, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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

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This bill provides that nonprofit corporations are eligible to receive assistance under two financial and technical assistance programs (the Urban and Community Forest Program and the Green Shores Program) administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies current practice.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** DNR must establish and administer an Urban and Community Forestry Program to provide State or federal financial assistance, on a matching basis, to a county or municipal corporation that implements a local urban and community forestry program within its jurisdiction. The program must provide technical assistance to counties, municipal corporations, and individuals for the retention and management of forests and trees. DNR may accept federal funds and provide funds, on a matching basis, to cooperating counties and municipal corporations for the purpose of administering an urban and community forestry program.

DNR also is directed to establish a Green Shores Program to promote and cause the planting and maintenance of forested buffers around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The program may include providing grants in the form of trees, money, materials, or expertise to local governments and State agencies to be used for planting or enhancing forested buffers, educating the public, and promoting forested buffers on private land. DNR may enter into contractual agreements with other State agencies, local governments, and private citizens who receive payments or grants.

**Background:** DNR advises that it already provides assistance to nonprofit corporations under the two programs affected by the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2003  
ncs/jr

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