
By: **Delegates Cane, Benson, Elmore, Hubbard, Rudolph, Sossi, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Minorities Outreach and Involvement in the Environmental Community**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Minorities Outreach and Involvement in the
5 Environmental Community Program; requiring the Department of Natural
6 Resources to administer the Program; requiring the Chesapeake Bay Trust to
7 provide certain funding for the Program; authorizing the Program to solicit and
8 accept certain grants or donations from certain sources; defining a certain term;
9 and generally relating to the Minorities Outreach and Involvement in the
10 Environmental Community Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article - Natural Resources
13 Section 1-702 and 1-703
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article - Natural Resources
18 Section 1-704
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article - Natural Resources
23 Section 3-1001 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 10. Minorities Outreach
24 and Involvement in the Environmental Community Program"
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Natural Resources

2 1-702.

3 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the State Chesapeake Bay and Endangered
4 Species Fund.

5 (b) There is a State Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund.

6 (c) (1) The net proceeds from contributions under the income tax checkoff
7 system and any other donations to the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

8 (2) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

9 (3) The Fund shall be used only as provided in §§ 1-703 through 1-705 of
10 this subtitle.

11 (4) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the Comptroller
12 shall account for the Fund.

13 (5) The Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same
14 manner as other State money may be invested.

15 (6) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the General
16 Fund of the State.

17 (7) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with
18 the State budget.

19 (d) The Fund shall be maintained for the purposes stated in this subtitle and
20 unspent portions of the Fund shall remain in the Fund and may not revert to the
21 General Fund of the State.

22 (e) Moneys expended from the Fund for the Chesapeake Bay Trust and
23 Endangered Species Conservation programs are supplemental and are not intended
24 to take the place of funding that would otherwise be appropriated to the Department
25 of Natural Resources for the Trust or for those programs.

26 1-703.

27 (a) (1) The Secretary may distribute not more than 5% of the net proceeds of
28 the Fund to a promotional account to be used to promote further donations to the
29 Fund.

30 (2) Moneys in the Fund may be used for administrative costs calculated
31 in accordance with § 1-103(b)(2) of this title.

32 (b) After making the distributions allowed under subsection (a) of this section,
33 the Secretary shall distribute the remainder of the net proceeds of the Fund as
34 follows:

1 (1) 50% to the Chesapeake Bay Trust established under § 8-1901 of this
2 article, to be used by the Trust only as provided in § 1-704 of this subtitle; and

3 (2) 50% to an endangered species account, to be used only to conserve
4 nongame, threatened and endangered species as provided in § 1-705 of this subtitle.
5 1-704.

6 The Chesapeake Bay Trust shall use the funds it receives under § 1-703 of this
7 subtitle only to provide grants to:

8 (1) [nonprofit] NONPROFIT organizations, community associations, civic
9 groups, schools, or public agencies for citizen involvement projects that will enhance
10 or promote:

11 [(1)] (I) Public education of the State's citizens concerning the
12 Chesapeake Bay;

13 [(2)] (II) The preservation or enhancement of water quality and fishery
14 or wildlife habitat;

15 [(3)] (III) The restoration of aquatic or land resources;

16 [(4)] (IV) Reforestation projects;

17 [(5)] (V) The publication or production of educational materials on the
18 Chesapeake Bay; or

19 [(6)] (VI) Training in environmental studies or environmental
20 enhancement; AND

21 (2) THE MINORITIES OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
22 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM, ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3-1001 OF THIS
23 ARTICLE.

24 SUBTITLE 10. MINORITIES OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
25 COMMUNITY PROGRAM.

26 3-1001.

27 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MINORITIES OUTREACH AND
28 INVOLVEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM.

29 (B) (1) THERE IS A MINORITIES OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
30 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM.

31 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

32 (I) PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES;

1 (II) PROMOTE AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND
2 THEIR IMPACT ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES; AND

3 (III) ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITIES TO CONSIDER A
4 CAREER IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

5 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

6 (D) THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE
7 PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 1-704(2) OF THIS ARTICLE.

8 (E) THE PROGRAM MAY:

9 (1) SOLICIT AND ACCEPT GRANTS OR DONATIONS FROM A FEDERAL,
10 STATE, LOCAL, OR PRIVATE ENTITY;

11 (2) DEVELOP PROJECTS FOR SPONSORSHIP BY CORPORATE AND
12 BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS;

13 (3) DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS OR
14 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROJECTS; AND

15 (4) RECEIVE APPROPRIATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 July 1, 2006.