

HOUSE BILL 531

F1

2lr1669
CF SB 383

By: **Delegate J. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant –**
3 **Funding and Evaluation – Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the number of fiscal years for which the Governor must
5 include a certain amount in the State budget for increasing the number of green
6 schools in the State; extending the annual evaluation of the impact of the funds
7 appropriated under this Act on increasing the number of green schools in the State;
8 and generally relating to green schools.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–117
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–117.

18 (a) The Governor shall include the following amounts in the State budget to the
19 Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education for increasing the number
20 of green schools in the State:

21 (1) For fiscal year 2021, \$278,750;

22 (2) For fiscal year 2022, \$268,300;

23 (3) For fiscal year 2023, \$272,100;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iv) For fiscal year 2024, \$137,400;

2 (v) For fiscal year 2025, \$141,600; [and]

3 **(VI) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, \$141,600;**

4 **(VII) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, \$141,600; AND**

5 **[(vi)] (VIII) For fiscal year [2026] 2028, \$85,000;**

6 (3) To support statewide green school events, the following allocations:

7 (i) For each of fiscal years 2021 through **[2025] 2027**, \$8,000; and

8 (ii) For fiscal year **[2026] 2028**, \$6,000;

9 (4) To conduct, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, an annual
10 evaluation of the impact of the funds appropriated under this section on increasing the
11 number of green schools in the State, the following allocations:

12 (i) For each of fiscal years 2021 through **[2025] 2027**, \$10,000; and

13 (ii) For fiscal year **[2026] 2028**, \$4,000; and

14 (5) To create an online application form for a school to apply to get funding
15 under this section, the following allocations:

16 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$20,000; and

17 (ii) For each of fiscal years 2022 through **[2026] 2028**, \$5,000.

18 (c) The annual evaluation funded under subsection (b)(4) of this section shall:

19 (1) Be conducted annually in calendar years 2022 through **[2027] 2029**;

20 (2) Be conducted by an independent contractor that has experience
21 evaluating environmental programs;

22 (3) Examine whether the funding has:

23 (i) Increased support for the development of green schools;

24 (ii) Provided professional development to more teachers; and

25 (iii) Increased the environmental literacy of students; and

- 1 (4) On completion, be provided to:
- 2 (i) The President of the Senate;
- 3 (ii) The Speaker of the House;
- 4 (iii) The State Superintendent;
- 5 (iv) The Secretary of the Environment;
- 6 (v) The Secretary of Natural Resources;
- 7 (vi) The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
8 Committee;
- 9 (vii) The House Committee on Ways and Means; and
- 10 (viii) The House Environment and Transportation Committee.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2022.