

# HOUSE BILL 658

C6, M1

2lr2684  
CF 2lr2686

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By: **Cecil County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fair Hill Improvement Fund – Special Event Area and Operations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain funds credited to the Fair Hill Improvement  
4 Fund be used for certain purposes; requiring the Governor to include in the annual  
5 budget bill a certain appropriation to the Fund; authorizing the Department of  
6 Natural Resources to use certain funds for certain grants for certain purposes; and  
7 generally relating to the Fair Hill Improvement Fund.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Business Regulation

10 Section 11–701 and 11–704

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Natural Resources

15 Section 5–908

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Business Regulation**

21 11–701.

22 This subtitle applies only to the licensee that is the Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc.,  
23 or its successor.

24 11–704.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) The licensee shall deduct from the handle:

2 (i) all the breakage; and

3 (ii) an amount not to exceed 25%.

4 (2) Excluding the breakage, of the amount the licensee deducts from the  
5 handle, 36% of that amount shall be paid to the Commission, which shall send it to the  
6 Comptroller to be credited to the Fair Hill Improvement Fund established in § 5–908 of the  
7 Natural Resources Article.

8 (b) Money that remains after deductions are made under subsection (a) of this  
9 section shall be returned as winnings to successful bettors.

#### 10 Article – Natural Resources

11 5–908.

12 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Fair Hill Improvement Fund.

13 (b) **(1)** There is a Fair Hill Improvement Fund in the Department, to be used  
14 for the operation, maintenance, development, and improvement of the Fair Hill facilities at  
15 Fair Hill, Maryland.

16 **(2) MONEY CREDITED TO THE FUND UNDER § 11–704 OF THE**  
17 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE GROUNDS**  
18 **AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE SPECIAL EVENT AREA AT FAIR HILL.**

19 (c) Any money obtained by the Department from Fair Hill shall be credited to the  
20 Fund.

21 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of  
22 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

23 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund may not be transferred or revert  
24 to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund.

25 (3) Money in the Fund may be used for administrative costs calculated in  
26 accordance with § 1–103(b)(2) of this article.

27 **(E) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**  
28 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**  
29 **AT LEAST \$1,800,000 TO THE FUND TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSES**  
30 **SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION.**

1           **(F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, THE**  
2 **DEPARTMENT MAY USE THE FUND TO PROVIDE A GRANT OR GRANTS TO A UNIT OF**  
3 **STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL JURISDICTION, A NONPROFIT ENTITY, OR AN**  
4 **AFFILIATED FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED BY THE MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY**  
5 **UNDER § 10-612 OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE, IF:**

6           **(1) THE DEPARTMENT HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE**  
7 **GRANT RECIPIENT FOR THE ONGOING OPERATION, USE, MAINTENANCE,**  
8 **DEVELOPMENT, OR IMPROVEMENT OF THE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE**  
9 **SPECIAL EVENT AREA AT FAIR HILL; AND**

10           **(2) THE GRANT FUNDS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE PURPOSES**  
11 **REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS**  
12 **SUBSECTION AND THE GRANT RECIPIENT'S ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
14 1, 2022.