

# HOUSE BILL 727

M1, B5

2lr1781  
CF SB 541

---

By: **Delegates Luedtke, D. Barnes, Barve, Beitzel, Belcastro, Bhandari, Boyce, Brooks, Buckel, Cardin, Carr, Charkoudian, Clippinger, Crosby, Ebersole, Feldmark, Forbes, Fraser–Hidalgo, Guyton, Henson, Hornberger, Jackson, D. Jones, R. Jones, Kaiser, Lehman, J. Lewis, Lierman, Love, McIntosh, McKay, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Qi, Reznik, Ruth, Solomon, Stein, Watson, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service and State Parks – Alterations**  
3 **(Great Maryland Outdoors Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the Park Advisory Commission in the Department of Natural  
5 Resources and establishing the Parks and Recreation Commission in the  
6 Department of Natural Resources to provide oversight of the Maryland Park Service;  
7 addressing infrastructure, capacity, and accessibility needs within the Maryland  
8 Park Service and State parks, including establishing systems and processes for  
9 surveying infrastructure and critical maintenance needs, increasing the number of  
10 Maryland Park Service full–time employees, requiring the Department of Budget  
11 and Management to conduct certain staff reviews, requiring the Department of  
12 Natural Resources to develop a certain capital improvement plan and a  
13 comprehensive long–range strategic plan for the Park Service, requiring the  
14 Department of Legislative Services to hire an independent consultant to study  
15 certain aspects of the Maryland Park Service and State parks, requiring the  
16 Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain design principles and make  
17 certain considerations relating to the accessibility, inclusivity, and location of State  
18 parks, and establishing the Freedman’s State Historical Park; establishing the Park  
19 System Critical Maintenance Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide funding  
20 for certain critical maintenance projects; requiring interest earnings of the Park  
21 System Critical Maintenance Fund to be credited to the Fund; establishing the Park  
22 System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund  
23 to provide funding for certain capital improvement projects and the acquisition of  
24 certain land; requiring interest earnings of the Park System Capital Improvements  
25 and Acquisition Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Governor, for a certain  
26 fiscal year, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of a certain amount

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 to the Rural Legacy Program, the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund, the Park  
2 System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund, the Maryland Agricultural  
3 Land Preservation Fund, and the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based  
4 Industry Development Corporation; and generally relating to the Maryland Park  
5 Service.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 5–204 and 5–9A–01  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Natural Resources  
13 Section 5–210.1, 5–220, and 5–221; 5–2A–01 through 5–2A–05 to the under the new  
14 subtitle “Subtitle 2A. Maryland Park Service”; and 5–1012  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Agriculture  
19 Section 2–505(a) and (b)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

22 BY adding to  
23 Article – Agriculture  
24 Section 2–505(i)  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
28 Article – Economic Development  
29 Section 10–501(a) and (f)  
30 Annotated Code of Maryland  
31 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

32 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
33 Article – Economic Development  
34 Section 10–523(a)  
35 Annotated Code of Maryland  
36 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

37 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
38 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
39 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
40 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2021 Replacement Volume)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
4 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145. and 13–109  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2021 Replacement Volume)

7 BY adding to  
8 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
9 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146. and 147.  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Tax – Property  
14 Section 13–209(g)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Labor and Employment  
19 Section 9–207 and 9–503  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Tax – General  
24 Section 10–209  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

29 **Article – Natural Resources**

30 5–204.

31 (a) (1) There is a Sustainable Forestry Council in the Department.

32 (2) The purpose of the Council is to advise the Department on all matters  
33 related to:

34 (i) Sustainable forestry management in the State;

1 (ii) The expenditure of funds from the Mel Noland Woodland  
2 Incentives Fund under § 5–307 of this title;

3 (iii) Existing regulatory and statutory policies that are perceived as  
4 economic barriers to a viable forest products industry;

5 (iv) New markets to enhance forest health, including renewable  
6 energy development through biomass energy, to offset fossil fuel consumption and reduce  
7 greenhouse gas emissions;

8 (v) Creative strategies to help privately owned forest lands better  
9 compete with real estate market values that are driving forest conversion and  
10 fragmentation;

11 (vi) The means to promote forest–based economies and processing  
12 capability that contribute to economic and employment growth; and

13 (vii) Assigning a nutrient efficiency benefit to forest stewardship  
14 plans and other forest conservation management plans that can be measurably tracked and  
15 reported by the number of forested acres covered by the plans.

16 (b) [There is a Park Advisory Commission in the Department.

17 (c)] (1) The Sustainable Forestry Council shall have 9 members.

18 (2) Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
19 advice of the Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

20 [(d) (1) The Park Advisory Commission shall have 12 members.

21 (2) Members of the Park Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the  
22 Governor, with the advice of the Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.]

23 **5–210.1.**

24 (A) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
25 **GENERAL SERVICES TO:**

26 (1) **DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ITS**  
27 **INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING:**

28 (I) **A LIST OF MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT EACH SITE; AND**

29 (II) **THE STATUS OF EACH MAINTENANCE PROJECT;**

1           **(2) DEVELOP A FACILITY CONDITION INDEX ASSESSMENT PROCESS**  
2 **FOR ALL PARK SERVICE SITES, MODELED AFTER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S**  
3 **FACILITY CONDITION INDEX; AND**

4           **(3) ESTABLISH A DEDICATED ASSET EVALUATION TEAM TO:**

5                   **(I) ASSESS THE CONDITION OF MARYLAND PARK SERVICE**  
6 **SITES; AND**

7                   **(II) UPDATE INDIVIDUAL FACILITY CONDITION INDICES ON AN**  
8 **ONGOING BASIS.**

9           **(B) WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO REPAIR OR REPLACE**  
10 **INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
11 **CONSIDER HOW THE REPLACEMENT VALUE OF AN ASSET WILL CHANGE IF ONLY**  
12 **SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY IS USED, INCLUDING ANY ONGOING COST SAVINGS.**

13           **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

14                   **(I) TAKE INVENTORY OF ALL STATE LAND MANAGED BY THE**  
15 **DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING:**

- 16                               **1. ACREAGE;**  
17                               **2. ANY STRUCTURES ON EACH PROPERTY; AND**  
18                               **3. THE USE OF EACH PROPERTY;**

19                   **(II) DEVELOP A MAINTENANCE PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**  
20 **PROCESS MODELED AFTER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S ASSET PRIORITY**  
21 **INDEX; AND**

22                   **(III) DEVELOP AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF**  
23 **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS IN EVERY UNIT OF THE STATE PARK SYSTEM THAT ARE**  
24 **EXPECTED TO COST MORE THAN \$25,000.**

25           **(2) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT A SYSTEMWIDE**  
26 **SURVEY OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATION**  
27 **OF RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**

28                   **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DELAY THE PRESERVATION**  
29 **AND RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WHILE**  
30 **CONDUCTING THE SYSTEMWIDE SURVEY.**

1 **5-220.**

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL  
3 MAINTENANCE FUND.

4 (B) THERE IS A PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL MAINTENANCE FUND.

5 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMPLETING  
6 STATE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS  
7 MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

8 (D) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

9 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
10 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

11 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
12 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

13 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

14 (1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 13-209(G) OF THE  
15 TAX - PROPERTY ARTICLE;

16 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

17 (3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

18 (4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR  
19 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

20 (G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR STATE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS  
21 CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
22 FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

23 (H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
24 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

25 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO  
26 THE FUND.

1 (I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
2 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

3 (J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CRITICAL MAINTENANCE IN  
4 THE STATE'S PARKS IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE  
5 PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CRITICAL  
6 MAINTENANCE IN THE STATE'S PARKS.

7 (K) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONLY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN  
8 THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
9 \$80,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR STATE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS CRITICAL  
10 MAINTENANCE CONCERNS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC  
11 PURPOSES.

12 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPEND THE FUNDS ALLOCATED  
13 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BEFORE JULY 1, 2026.

14 5-221.

15 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL  
16 IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION FUND.

17 (B) THERE IS A PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION  
18 FUND.

19 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR:

20 (1) COMPLETING STATE PROJECTS RELATED TO CAPITAL  
21 IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES;  
22 AND

23 (2) ACQUIRING LAND TO BE MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
24 PUBLIC PURPOSES.

25 (D) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

26 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
27 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

28 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
29 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

30 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

1           **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

2           **(2) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND**

3           **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
4 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

5           **(G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

6           **(1) COMPLETING STATE PROJECTS RELATED TO CAPITAL**  
7 **IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES;**  
8 **AND**

9           **(2) ACQUIRING LAND TO BE MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR**  
10 **PUBLIC PURPOSES.**

11           **(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
12 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

13           **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
14 **THE FUND.**

15           **(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
16 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

17           **(J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN**  
18 **THE STATE'S PARKS IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE**  
19 **PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CAPITAL**  
20 **IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATE'S PARKS AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE**  
21 **DEPARTMENT THAT WILL BE MANAGED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.**

22           **(K) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONLY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
23 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
24 **\$70,000,000 TO THE FUND TO BE USED AS FOLLOWS:**

25           **(1) \$5,000,000 FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT MITIGATE**  
26 **THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:**

27                   **(I) FLOOD BARRIERS;**

28                   **(II) FOREST BUFFERS;**



- 1 (III) GREEN SPACES;
- 2 (IV) BUILDING ELEVATION;
- 3 (V) STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE; AND
- 4 (VI) WETLANDS RESTORATION;

5 (2) \$5,000,000 FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION;

6 (3) \$20,000,000 FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS,  
7 INCLUDING:

8 (I) IMPROVING BIKE LANES AND TRAILS, INCREASING  
9 WALKABILITY, AND EXPANDING PARKING AVAILABILITY; AND

10 (II) TARGETING TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS TO AVOID  
11 CAPACITY SHUTDOWNS;

12 (4) \$10,000,000 FOR INCREASING WATER ACCESS, INCLUDING KAYAK  
13 AND BOAT LAUNCHES AND AREAS FOR PICNICKING NEAR WATER AND SWIMMING;  
14 AND

15 (5) \$30,000,000 FOR LAND ACQUISITION, INCLUDING:

16 (I) AREAS IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE  
17 STATE THAT WILL:

18 1. RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT EXISTING STATE  
19 PARKS; AND

20 2. EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE PARKS AND  
21 OUTDOOR RECREATION;

22 (II) SITES WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MINORITY  
23 COMMUNITIES; AND

24 (III) BEACHFRONT OR WATERFRONT PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC  
25 ACCESS.

26 SUBTITLE 2A. MARYLAND PARK SERVICE.

27 5-2A-01.

1 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

4 (C) "PARK SERVICE" MEANS THE MARYLAND PARK SERVICE.

5 **5-2A-02.**

6 (A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
7 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE PARK SERVICE BY 100  
8 PERMANENT, CLASSIFIED POSITIONS.

9 (2) EACH STAFF POSITION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
10 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET  
11 ALLOCATION TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR EACH EMPLOYEE.

12 (3) THE STAFF POSITIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
13 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

14 (I) FIVE POSITIONS IN THE ENGINEERING AND  
15 CONSTRUCTION UNIT;

16 (II) FIVE POSITIONS IN THE LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING  
17 UNIT; AND

18 (III) ONE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR.

19 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:

20 (I) CONDUCT A STAFF ADEQUACY REVIEW OF THE PARK  
21 SERVICE EVERY 2 YEARS; AND

22 (II) REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE COMMISSION AND, IN  
23 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
24 ASSEMBLY.

25 (2) AS A PART OF THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS  
26 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL CONSIDER  
27 STAFFING GOALS FOR THE PARK SERVICE.

28 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:

1                   **(I) CONDUCT A STAFF SALARY REVIEW OF THE PARK SERVICE**  
2 **EVERY 3 YEARS; AND**

3                   **(II) REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE COMMISSION AND, IN**  
4 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
5 **ASSEMBLY.**

6                   **(2) THE SALARY REVIEW REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF**  
7 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FOCUS ON THE GOALS OF IMPROVING:**

8                   **(I) HIRING BY COMPENSATING PARK SERVICE EMPLOYEES AT**  
9 **A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH:**

- 10                               **1. LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS;**
- 11                               **2. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; AND**
- 12                               **3. FOR PARK SERVICE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WHO**  
13 **PERFORM SKILLED AND LICENSED TRADE FUNCTIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR; AND**

14                   **(II) RETENTION BY PROMOTING UPWARD MOBILITY WITHIN A**  
15 **JOB SERIES.**

16                   **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOGNIZE PARK SERVICE ASSOCIATES AND**  
17 **FOREST RANGERS, PARK RANGERS, AND WILDLIFE RANGERS AS EMERGENCY**  
18 **SERVICES PERSONNEL.**

19                   **(E) (1) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT A VOLUNTEER**  
20 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO STRATEGICALLY MANAGE VOLUNTEER SERVICES**  
21 **PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUALS AND STATE PARKS FRIENDS GROUPS.**

22                               **(II) THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED**  
23 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE MODELED ON THE**  
24 **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE’S VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS PROGRAM.**

25                   **(2) THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SHALL BE MANAGED**  
26 **BY A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER DEDICATED TO OVERSEEING THE**  
27 **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

28                   **(3) THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER SHALL:**

29                               **(I) CONDUCT ANNUAL TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS;**

1 (II) DEVELOP AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES;

2 (III) PERFORM AUDITS, EVALUATIONS, AND MONITORING TO  
3 DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; AND

4 (IV) DEVELOP AN ANNUAL REPORT ON VOLUNTEER STATISTICS  
5 AND IMPACTS.

6 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPAND ITS WORK WITH PARK-FOCUSED  
7 ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE CHARITABLE FUNDING FOR PARK ENHANCEMENTS.

8 5-2A-03.

9 (A) (1) THERE IS A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION IN THE  
10 DEPARTMENT.

11 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT  
12 OF THE PARK SERVICE.

13 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

14 (1) A CHAIR, APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
15 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

16 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY  
17 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

18 (3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY  
19 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

20 (4) FOUR MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WHO REFLECT  
21 THE RACIAL, GENDER, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

22 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF  
23 FOR THE COMMISSION.

24 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH  
25 A BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE PARK SERVICE AND PARK SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

26 (1) THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL CAPACITY CLOSURES, LISTED BY  
27 LOCATION;

1           **(2) THE CRITICAL MAINTENANCE BACKLOG;**

2           **(3) VACANT STAFF POSITIONS; AND**

3           **(4) ANY OTHER INFORMATION:**

4                   **(I) RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PARK SERVICE; OR**

5                   **(II) REQUESTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

6           **(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET QUARTERLY TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF**  
7 **THE PARK SERVICE.**

8           **(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**  
9 **THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET**  
10 **AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND**  
11 **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**  
12 **COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
13 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

14                   **(2) THE REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
15 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE COMMISSION'S:**

16                           **(I) FINDINGS ON THE STATUS OF THE PARK SERVICE; AND**

17                           **(II) RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
18 **CAN SUPPORT THE PARK SERVICE.**

19 **5-2A-04.**

20           **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, AND EVERY 5 YEARS**  
21 **THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A 5-YEAR CAPITAL**  
22 **IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE PARK SERVICE.**

23                   **(2) IN DEVELOPING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE**  
24 **DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION, ANNUALLY HOLD**  
25 **AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

26                   **(3) THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:**

27                           **(I) A LIST OF ALL OUTSTANDING CRITICAL MAINTENANCE**  
28 **PROJECTS AND THE PROJECTED COST OF EACH PROJECT;**

1                   **(II) A PRIORITIZATION OF CRITICAL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**  
2 **AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS FOR PRIORITIZING THE PROJECTS; AND**

3                   **(III) SCORING AND RANKING FOR EACH CRITICAL MAINTENANCE**  
4 **PROJECT, AS DETERMINED BY THE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS.**

5                   **(4) THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE**  
6 **INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION**  
7 **DISAGGREGATED BY REGION.**

8           **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL HIRE AN**  
9 **INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF:**

10                   **(I) WHETHER THE PARK SERVICE IS PRODUCING OUTCOMES**  
11 **CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION;**

12                   **(II) THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE FOR STATE PARKS, INCLUDING:**

13                           **1. PARKING AVAILABILITY;**

14                           **2. CLEANLINESS; AND**

15                           **3. WHETHER FACILITIES, AMENITIES, OR AREAS ARE**  
16 **CLOSED, INCLUDING WHETHER THE CLOSURES ARE DUE TO DEFERRED**  
17 **MAINTENANCE; AND**

18                   **(III) HOW FUNDING CAN BE USED TO ENABLE THE PARK**  
19 **SERVICE TO PRODUCE OUTCOMES CONSISTENT WITH ITS MISSION.**

20                   **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, THE INDEPENDENT**  
21 **CONSULTANT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
22 **TO THE COMMISSION.**

23           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

24                   **(1) RECOGNIZE AS A FORMAL POLICY THAT THE STATE'S FORESTS,**  
25 **TREES, AND WETLANDS ARE A MAJOR TOOL FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE**  
26 **WITH REGARD TO MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, AND RESILIENCY; AND**

27                   **(2) REQUIRE ALL PARK SERVICE PROJECTS TO CONTRIBUTE, TO THE**  
28 **EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL WATER QUALITY.**

1 (D) (1) THE PARK SERVICE SHALL ADOPT UNIVERSAL DESIGN  
2 PRINCIPLES IN ITS PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ACCESS  
3 BY ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIORS.

4 (2) TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF,  
5 BLIND, OR BOTH, THE PARK SERVICE WEBSITE AND ALL OTHER DIGITAL OUTREACH  
6 PLATFORMS SHALL ADHERE TO WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES 2.1  
7 AND SECTION 508 OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

8 (E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS RELATED TO THE LOCATION AND  
9 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATE PARKS OR AMENITIES SHALL TARGET AREAS:

10 (I) IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PARK EQUITY TOOL AS  
11 IN NEED OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; OR

12 (II) THAT WOULD RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN EXISTING STATE  
13 PARKS THAT HAVE CONSISTENTLY HAD TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO CAPACITY  
14 RESTRICTIONS.

15 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE CULTURAL AND  
16 ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITIES OF STATE PARK AREAS WHEN EXAMINING THE  
17 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AMENITIES IN EXISTING STATE PARKS.

18 (3) THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS RELATED TO THE  
19 ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE HISTORICAL PARKS OR OTHER UNITS THAT PRESERVE  
20 AND INTERPRET THE STORY OF HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED, MINORITY, AND  
21 OTHER UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES SHALL BE MADE:

22 (I) IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION; AND

23 (II) WITH INPUT FROM GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE PRESERVATION  
24 OF HISTORICAL SITES OF UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES.

25 5-2A-05.

26 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

27 (1) DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE  
28 STRATEGIC PLAN BY DECEMBER 1, 2023; AND

29 (2) UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN  
30 EVERY 5 YEARS TO REFLECT MAJOR GOALS AND PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING  
31 THOSE GOALS.





1                   **5. THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; AND**

2                   **6. THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ROUNDTABLE;**

3                   **(4) THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE DAY-USE RESERVATION**  
4 **SYSTEM BEYOND THE FALLING BRANCH AREA OF ROCKS STATE PARK TO ALL**  
5 **PARKS EXPERIENCING CAPACITY SHUTDOWNS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS ON**  
6 **HOW THE EXPANSION OF THE DAY-USE RESERVATION SYSTEM MAY IMPACT STATE**  
7 **PARK VISITORS IN TERMS OF EQUITY AND ACCESS;**

8                   **(5) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE DEPARTMENT CAN INTEGRATE**  
9 **INFRASTRUCTURE MESSAGING WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND LOCAL**  
10 **GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A**  
11 **COORDINATED WEBSITE AND DIGITAL APPLICATION THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION**  
12 **ON:**

13                   **(I) WHERE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ARE LOCATED;**

14                   **(II) AVAILABLE AMENITIES; AND**

15                   **(III) REAL-TIME INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONAL STATUS**  
16 **OF A PARK, INCLUDING CAPACITY;**

17                   **(6) LONG-TERM MEASURES TO:**

18                   **(I) RECRUIT AND RETAIN PEOPLE OF COLOR AND BILINGUAL**  
19 **STAFF INTO PARK SERVICE POSITIONS; AND**

20                   **(II) PROVIDE ONGOING UPDATES ON EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND**  
21 **RETAIN A DIVERSE PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE;**

22                   **(7) DETAILS AND UPDATES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS IN**  
23 **COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE'S HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND**  
24 **UNIVERSITIES THAT ARE:**

25                   **(I) MODELED ON THE CADET PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY**  
26 **THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; AND**

27                   **(II) FOCUSED ON CREATING A PIPELINE OF NEW RANGERS AND**  
28 **OTHER FULL-TIME STAFF FROM AMONG VOLUNTEERS, THE STATE FOSTER YOUTH**  
29 **SYSTEM, AND HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES; AND**

30                   **(8) THE RESULTS OF:**

1                   **(I) IMPLEMENTING A VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
2 **UNDER § 5-2A-02(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

3                   **(II) LEVERAGING CHARITABLE FUNDING FOR PARK**  
4 **ENHANCEMENTS UNDER § 5-2A-02(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

5                   **(III) ANY COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND**  
6 **THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES**  
7 **TO IMPROVE BICYCLE, SIDEWALK, AND TRAIL ACCESS TO STATE PARKS.**

8 5-9A-01.

9           (a) The General Assembly declares that:

10           (1) Sprawl development and other modifications to the landscape in  
11 Maryland continue at an alarming rate, consuming land rich in natural resource,  
12 agricultural, and forestry value, adversely affecting water quality, wetlands and habitat,  
13 threatening resource-based economies and cultural assets, and rending the fabric of rural  
14 life;

15           (2) Current State, county, and local land conservation programs help to  
16 limit the effect of sprawl development but lack sufficient funding and focus to preserve key  
17 areas before escalating land values make their protection impossible or the land is lost to  
18 development; and

19           (3) A grant program that leverages available funding, focuses on  
20 preservation of strategic resources, including those resources threatened by sprawl  
21 development, streamlines real property acquisition procedures to expedite land  
22 preservation, takes advantage of innovative preservation techniques such as transferable  
23 development rights and the purchase of development rights, and promotes a greater level  
24 of natural and environmental resources protection than is provided by existing efforts, will  
25 establish a rural legacy for future generations.

26           (b) (1) A Rural Legacy Program is established to enhance natural resource,  
27 agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection as provided in subsection (a) of this  
28 section while maintaining the viability of resource-based land usage and proper  
29 management of tillable and wooded areas through accepted agricultural and silvicultural  
30 practices for farm production and timber harvests.

31           (2) The Program provides funds to the local governments and land trusts  
32 to purchase interests in real property from willing sellers, including easements,  
33 transferable development rights, and fee estates, focused in designated Rural Legacy  
34 Areas.

1           (3) The Program shall encourage partnerships among the federal, State,  
2 and local governments, and nonprofit land trust organizations and encourage local land  
3 conservation initiatives.

4           (4) The Program is administered by a Rural Legacy Board in the  
5 Department of Natural Resources, an advisory committee, and existing State staff.

6           (c) The Program is funded:

7           (1) Pursuant to § 13–209 of the Tax – Property Article and § 5–903(a)(2)(iii)  
8 of this title; [and]

9           (2) By the proceeds from the sale of general obligation bonds as provided  
10 in § 5–9A–09 of this subtitle; AND

11           **(3) BY MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
12 **PROGRAM.**

13           (d) **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
14 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,444,127 TO THE PROGRAM.**

15           **(E)** When negotiating and awarding grants, the Board shall encourage sponsors  
16 to utilize zero coupon bonds in the implementation of the Rural Legacy Plan in order to  
17 reduce the utilization of general obligation bonds in funding the grants.

18 **5–1012.**

19           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PARTNERSHIP PARK” MEANS A UNIT OF THE STATE**  
20 **PARK SYSTEM MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL**  
21 **GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY AGENCY, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**

22           **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE FREEDMAN’S STATE**  
23 **HISTORICAL PARK AS A PARTNERSHIP PARK THAT SEEKS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC**  
24 **ABOUT AND PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF BLACK**  
25 **AMERICANS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.**

26           **(2) FREEDMAN’S STATE HISTORICAL PARK SHALL BE HELD BY THE**  
27 **STATE AS A STATE PARK UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE**  
28 **DEPARTMENT.**

29           **(C) THE PARK SHALL CONSIST OF PROPERTIES IN NORTHEASTERN**  
30 **MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN OR NEAR THE COMMUNITIES OF BROOKEVILLE, OLNEY,**  
31 **SANDY SPRING, ZION, AND LAYTONSVILLE THAT ARE:**

1           **(1) OWNED BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS**  
2 **PART OF THE PARK; AND**

3           **(2) (I) OWNED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY AGENCY,**  
4 **OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; AND**

5           **(II) DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE PARK BY A PARTNERSHIP**  
6 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE STATE.**

7           **(D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY**  
8 **COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SCOPE AND MANAGEMENT OF**  
9 **THE PARK.**

10           **(2) THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF**  
11 **THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

12           **(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF MONTGOMERY PARKS,**  
13 **DESIGNATED BY MONTGOMERY PARKS' DIRECTOR OF PARKS;**

14           **(II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HERITAGE TOURISM**  
15 **ALLIANCE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, DESIGNATED BY THE ALLIANCE'S**  
16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;**

17           **(III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SANDY SPRING SLAVE**  
18 **MUSEUM, DESIGNATED BY THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR;**

19           **(IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SANDY SPRING MUSEUM,**  
20 **DESIGNATED BY THE MUSEUM'S PRESIDENT; AND**

21           **(V) ANY OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE**  
22 **DEPARTMENT.**

23           **(3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY**  
24 **COMMITTEE SHALL REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY**  
25 **COUNTY.**

26           **(E) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A**  
27 **REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE**  
28 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:**

29           **(1) PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE IN NORTHEASTERN**  
30 **MONTGOMERY COUNTY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN FREEDMAN'S STATE**  
31 **HISTORICAL PARK;**

1                   **(2) PROPERTY OWNED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY**  
 2 **AGENCY, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY**  
 3 **COUNTY THAT IS SUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE PARK AND FOR WHICH THE**  
 4 **LANDOWNERS ARE WILLING TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT; AND**

5                   **(3) THE FUNDING NEEDED TO ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE THE PARK.**

6                   **Article – Agriculture**

7 2–505.

8               (a) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund is created and continued  
 9 for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

10           (b) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund shall comprise:

11                       (1) Any money made available to the Fund by general or special fund  
 12 appropriations;

13                       (2) Any money made available to the Fund by grants or transfers from  
 14 governmental or private sources; and

15                       (3) Any money received under § 2–513(c) of this subtitle.

16               **(I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
 17 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$18,564,469 TO THE FUND.**

18                   **Article – Economic Development**

19 10–501.

20           (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

21                       (f) “Corporation” means the Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based  
 22 Industry Development Corporation.

23 10–523.

24                       (a) (1) The Corporation may receive annual funding through an appropriation  
 25 in the State budget.

26                       (2) The Corporation may also receive money for projects included in the  
 27 budgets of State units.

1 (3) (i) To assist the Corporation in complying with subsection (c) of this  
 2 section, the Governor shall include each year in the State budget bill an appropriation to  
 3 the Corporation for rural business development and assistance as follows:

4 1. for fiscal year 2021, \$2,875,000; and

5 2. for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2025, \$2,735,000.

6 (ii) 1. **[In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2**  
 7 **OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, IN** addition to any money provided under subparagraph (i) of  
 8 this paragraph, the Governor may include each year in the State budget bill an  
 9 appropriation to the Corporation in an amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 for rural land  
 10 acquisition and easement programs, including programs to assist young and beginning  
 11 farmers.

12 2. **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
 13 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN THE**  
 14 **AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000 TO THE CORPORATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**  
 15 **FARMLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**

16 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

17 6–226.

18 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
 19 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
 20 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
 21 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
 22 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
 23 Fund of the State.

24 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
 25 to the following funds:

26 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

27 **[and]**

28 145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund;

29 **146. THE PARK SYSTEM CRITICAL MAINTENANCE FUND;**

30 **AND**

31 **147. THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND**  
 32 **ACQUISITION FUND.**

33 13–109.

- 1 (a) In this section, “small procurement” means a procurement for which:
- 2 (1) a unit spends \$50,000 or less;
- 3 (2) a contractor provides services subject to § 11–202(3) of this article for  
4 expected annual revenues of \$50,000 or less;
- 5 (3) the Department of General Services or the Department of  
6 Transportation is seeking to award a procurement contract for a construction with a value  
7 that is \$100,000 or less; [or]
- 8 (4) **THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS SEEKING TO**  
9 **AWARD A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS OR MAINTENANCE**  
10 **WITH A VALUE THAT IS \$100,000 OR LESS; OR**
- 11 (5) for purposes of administering Title 29, Subtitle 1 of the State Personnel  
12 and Pensions Article, the State Retirement Agency spends \$50,000 or less during a fiscal  
13 year for:
- 14 (i) expenses related to independent medical evaluations by a  
15 physician; and
- 16 (ii) any expenses related to testimony by the physician at  
17 administrative hearings on behalf of the Agency.
- 18 (b) A unit may make small procurements in accordance with the regulations of  
19 primary procurement units.
- 20 (c) A primary procurement unit may not create a small procurement by artificial  
21 division of a procurement.
- 22 (d) Any regulation of a primary procurement unit to govern small procurements:
- 23 (1) shall provide for a simplified administrative procedure;
- 24 (2) shall be consistent with the basic intent of this Division II; and
- 25 (3) may not be disadvantageous economically to the State.
- 26 (e) At least every 3 years, the Board shall:
- 27 (1) review the prevailing costs of labor and materials; and
- 28 (2) if warranted by changes in cost, recommend to the General Assembly  
29 appropriate adjustments in the ceiling for a small procurement.

1 **Article – Tax – Property**

2 13–209.

3 (g) (1) [(i) For each of fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the  
4 Governor shall include in the budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of  
5 \$2,500,000 to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based Industry Development  
6 Corporation for the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program authorized under §  
7 10–523(a)(3)(ii) of the Economic Development Article.

8 (ii) The appropriation required under subparagraph (i) of this  
9 paragraph:

10 1. represents reimbursement for 13.9% of the cumulative  
11 amount appropriated or transferred from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal  
12 year 2006; and

13 2. is not subject to the provisions of subsections (a) through  
14 (f) of this section.

15 (2) (i) 1. The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
16 fiscal year 2021 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
17 \$5,690,501.]

18 [2.] (I) The Governor shall include in [each of] the annual  
19 budget [bills] BILL for fiscal [years 2022 and] YEAR 2023 a General Fund appropriation to  
20 the special fund in the amount of \$12,500,000.

21 [3. The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
22 fiscal year 2024 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
23 \$6,809,499.]

24 (ii) The [appropriations] APPROPRIATION required under  
25 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

26 1. [are] IS not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b),  
27 (c), and (f) of this section;

28 2. shall be allocated as provided in subsection (d) of this  
29 section and § 5–903 of the Natural Resources Article; and

30 3. shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation from  
31 the General Fund to the special fund that:



1 A. exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;  
2 and

3 B. is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
4 this paragraph.

5 ~~[(3)] (2)~~ (i) ~~[1.]~~ The Governor shall include in ~~[each of]~~ the annual  
6 budget ~~[bills] BILL~~ for fiscal year ~~[2019 and fiscal years] 2023 [through 2026]~~ a General  
7 Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of \$6,000,000 ~~[and for fiscal year~~  
8 ~~2027 a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of \$4,000,000]~~ for  
9 park development and the critical maintenance of State projects located on lands managed  
10 by the Department of Natural Resources for public purposes.

11 ~~[2.]~~ The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill for  
12 fiscal year 2022 only a General Fund appropriation to the special fund in the amount of  
13 \$21,930,475 for the critical maintenance of State projects located on lands managed by the  
14 Department of Natural Resources for public purposes.]

15 (ii) The ~~[appropriations] APPROPRIATION~~ required under  
16 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

17 1. ~~[are] IS~~ not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b),  
18 (c), and (f) of this section; AND

19 2. ~~[shall be made until the cumulative total amount~~  
20 ~~appropriated under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph is equal to \$55,930,475; and~~

21 3.] shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation from  
22 the General Fund to the special fund that:

23 A. exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;

24 B. is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
25 this paragraph; and

26 C. supplements rather than supplants the Department of  
27 Natural Resources funding for the critical maintenance of State projects on State lands,  
28 based on the average critical maintenance budget of the 10 years preceding the  
29 appropriation.

30 ~~[(4)] (3)~~ (i) 1. ~~[Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the~~  
31 ~~Governor shall appropriate from the General Fund to the special fund \$119,800,225, which~~  
32 ~~equals the cumulative amount of the appropriations or transfers from the special fund to~~  
33 ~~the General Fund for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475.~~

1                                   2.     For fiscal year 2022 only, the Governor shall include in the  
2 annual budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 to the State  
3 Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund established under § 8–205 of the Natural Resources  
4 Article to be used only to fund a pilot dredging project at Deep Creek Lake, which is not  
5 required to be matched by local funds.

6                                   3.]    For [each of] fiscal [years] YEAR 2023, [2024, 2025, 2026,  
7 and 2027,] the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill a General Fund  
8 appropriation in the amount of \$2,500,000 to the Maryland Agricultural and  
9 Resource–Based Industry Development Corporation for the Next Generation Farmland  
10 Acquisition Program authorized under § 10–523(a)(3)(ii) of the Economic Development  
11 Article.

12                                   [4.] 2. For fiscal year 2025 only, the Governor shall include in  
13 the annual budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$2,735,000 to the  
14 Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based Industry Development Corporation  
15 established under Title 10, Subtitle 5 of the Economic Development Article to be used as  
16 follows:

17                                   A.     \$2,300,000 to support the Corporation’s rural business  
18 loan programs and small matching grant programs; and

19                                   B.     \$435,000 for grants and near–equity investments to:

20                                   I.     support the creation or expansion of agricultural product  
21 aggregation and storage sites; and

22                                   II.    facilitate participation in the Certified Local Farm  
23 Enterprise Program.

24                                   (ii)   [The Governor shall appropriate at least:

25                                   1.     \$8,230,475 on or before June 30, 2022;

26                                   2.     an additional \$37,986,900 on or before June 30, 2026;

27                                   3.     an additional \$48,221,900 on or before June 30, 2030; and

28                                   4.     an additional \$25,360,950 on or before June 30, 2031.

29                                   (iii)] The appropriations required under [subparagraphs]  
30 SUBPARAGRAPH (i) [and (ii)] of this paragraph:

31                                   1.     [represent reimbursement for the cumulative amount of  
32 any appropriation or transfer from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal years  
33 2016, 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475;

1                                   2.]     are not subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c),  
2 and (f) of this section;

3                                   [3.] 2. Shall be allocated as provided in subsection (d) of this  
4 section and § 5–903 of the Natural Resources Article; **AND**

5                                   [4.     Shall be made until the cumulative total appropriated  
6 under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph is equal to the cumulative amount of any  
7 appropriation or transfer from the special fund to the General Fund for fiscal years 2016,  
8 2017, and 2018, less \$104,365,475; and]

9                                   [5.] 3.         shall be reduced by the amount of any appropriation  
10 from the General Fund to the special fund that:

11                                  A.       exceeds the required appropriation under this paragraph;  
12 and

13                                  B.       is identified as an appropriation for reimbursement under  
14 this paragraph.

### 15                                   **Article – Labor and Employment**

16 9–207.

17           (a)     **A PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, A FOREST RANGER, A PARK RANGER, A**  
18 **WILDLIFE RANGER, A** registered crew member, a paid law enforcement employee, or an  
19 individual engaged for fire fighting by the Department of Natural Resources is a covered  
20 employee.

21           (b)     Notwithstanding § 9–203 of this subtitle, an individual engaged for fire  
22 fighting who otherwise would be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is  
23 a covered employee even if the fire fighting takes place outside of the State.

24           (c)     Notwithstanding § 9–205 of this subtitle, an individual who otherwise would  
25 be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is a covered employee even if  
26 engaged temporarily or part time.

27           (d)     For the purpose of this title, the Department of Natural Resources is the  
28 employer of an individual who is a covered employee under this section.

29 9–503.

30           (a)     **A PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
31 **WILDLIFE RANGER,** paid firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, paid rescue squad  
32 member, paid advanced life support unit member, or sworn member of the Office of the

1 State Fire Marshal employed by an airport authority, a county, a fire control district, a  
2 municipality, or the State or a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,  
3 volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member who is a  
4 covered employee under § 9–234 of this title is presumed to have an occupational disease  
5 that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this title if:

6 (1) the individual has heart disease, hypertension, or lung disease;

7 (2) the heart disease, hypertension, or lung disease results in partial or  
8 total disability or death; and

9 (3) in the case of a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,  
10 volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member, the  
11 individual has met a suitable standard of physical examination before becoming a  
12 firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit  
13 member.

14 (b) (1) A paid police officer employed by an airport authority, a county, the  
15 Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State,  
16 a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, or, subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a  
17 deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy  
18 sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County  
19 deputy sheriff, Prince George’s County correctional officer, or deputy sheriff of Allegany  
20 County is presumed to be suffering from an occupational disease that was suffered in the  
21 line of duty and is compensable under this title if:

22 (i) the police officer, deputy sheriff, or correctional officer is  
23 suffering from heart disease or hypertension; and

24 (ii) the heart disease or hypertension results in partial or total  
25 disability or death.

26 (2) (i) A deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County  
27 detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer,  
28 Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer is  
29 entitled to the presumption under this subsection only to the extent that the individual  
30 suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than the individual’s heart  
31 disease or hypertension condition existing prior to the individual’s employment as a deputy  
32 sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of  
33 Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy  
34 sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer.

35 (ii) To be eligible for the presumption under this subsection, a deputy  
36 sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of  
37 Baltimore City, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy  
38 sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer, as a condition of employment, shall  
39 submit to a medical examination to determine any heart disease or hypertension condition

1 existing prior to the individual's employment as a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County,  
2 Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, Montgomery  
3 County correctional officer, Prince George's County deputy sheriff, or Prince George's  
4 County correctional officer.

5 (c) A **PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
6 **WILDLIFE RANGER,** paid firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, paid rescue squad  
7 member, paid advanced life support unit member, or a sworn member of the Office of the  
8 State Fire Marshal employed by an airport authority, a county, a fire control district, a  
9 municipality, or the State or a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,  
10 volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member who is a  
11 covered employee under § 9-234 of this title is presumed to be suffering from an  
12 occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this  
13 title if:

14 (1) the individual has leukemia or prostate, rectal, throat, multiple  
15 myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, brain, testicular, bladder, kidney or renal cell, or  
16 breast cancer that is caused by contact with a toxic substance that the individual has  
17 encountered in the line of duty;

18 (2) the individual has completed at least 10 years of cumulative service  
19 within the State as a firefighter, a fire fighting instructor, a rescue squad member, or an  
20 advanced life support unit member or in a combination of those jobs;

21 (3) the cancer or leukemia results in partial or total disability or death; and

22 (4) in the case of a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor,  
23 volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member, the  
24 individual has met a suitable standard of physical examination before becoming a  
25 firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit  
26 member.

27 (d) (1) A **PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
28 **WILDLIFE RANGER,** paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural  
29 Resources who is a covered employee under § 9-207 of this title, and a park police officer of  
30 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is presumed to have an  
31 occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this  
32 title if the [employee] **INDIVIDUAL:**

33 (i) is suffering from Lyme disease; and

34 (ii) was not suffering from Lyme disease before assignment to a  
35 position that regularly places the employee in an outdoor wooded environment.

36 (2) The presumption under this subsection for a park police officer of the  
37 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission shall only apply:

1 (i) during the time that the park police officer is assigned to a  
 2 position that regularly places the park police officer in an outdoor wooded environment;  
 3 and

4 (ii) for 3 years after the last date that the park police officer was  
 5 assigned by the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to a position  
 6 that regularly placed the officer in an outdoor wooded environment.

7 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any paid  
 8 firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, sworn member of the Office of the State Fire  
 9 Marshal, paid police officer, **PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK**  
 10 **RANGER, WILDLIFE RANGER**, paid law enforcement employee of the Department of  
 11 Natural Resources, deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County  
 12 detention officer, park police officer of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning  
 13 Commission, deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City,  
 14 Montgomery County correctional officer, deputy sheriff of Prince George’s County, or Prince  
 15 George’s County correctional officer who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a), (b), (c),  
 16 or (d) of this section or the dependents of those individuals shall receive the benefits in  
 17 addition to any benefits that the individual or the dependents of the individual are entitled  
 18 to receive under the retirement system in which the individual was a participant at the  
 19 time of the claim.

20 (2) The benefits received under this title shall be adjusted so that the  
 21 weekly total of those benefits and retirement benefits does not exceed the weekly salary  
 22 that was paid to [the paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural  
 23 Resources, a park police officer of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning  
 24 Commission, firefighter, fire fighting instructor, sworn member of the Office of the State  
 25 Fire Marshal, police officer, deputy sheriff, Prince George’s County or Montgomery County  
 26 correctional officer, or Anne Arundel County detention officer] **AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED**  
 27 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

## 28 Article – Tax – General

29 10–209.

30 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

31 (2) “Correctional officer” means an individual who:

32 (i) was employed in:

33 1. a State correctional facility, as defined in § 1–101 of the  
 34 Correctional Services Article;

35 2. a local correctional facility, as defined in § 1–101 of the  
 36 Correctional Services Article;



1 (1) the cumulative or total annuity, pension, or endowment income from an  
2 employee retirement system included in federal adjusted gross income; or

3 (2) the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security Act computed  
4 under subsection (c) of this section, less any payment received as old age, survivors, or  
5 disability benefits under the Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, or both.

6 (c) For purposes of subsection (b)(2) of this section, the Comptroller:

7 (1) shall determine the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security  
8 Act allowed for an individual who retired at age 65 for the prior calendar year; and

9 (2) may allow the subtraction to the nearest \$100.

10 (d) Military retirement income that is included in the subtraction under §  
11 10–207(q) of this subtitle may not be taken into account for purposes of the subtraction  
12 under this section.

13 (e) In the case of a retired **PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER,**  
14 **PARK RANGER, WILDLIFE RANGER,** correctional officer, law enforcement officer, or fire,  
15 rescue, or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political  
16 subdivision of the State, the amount included under subsection (b)(1) of this section is  
17 limited to the first \$15,000 of retirement income that is attributable to the resident's  
18 employment as a **PARK SERVICES ASSOCIATE, FOREST RANGER, PARK RANGER,**  
19 **WILDLIFE RANGER,** correctional officer, [a] law enforcement officer, or fire, rescue, or  
20 emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision of  
21 the State unless:

22 (1) the resident is at least 65 years old or is totally disabled; or

23 (2) the resident's spouse is totally disabled.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other  
25 provision of law, on or before June 30, 2022, the Governor may transfer to the Park System  
26 Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund established in § 5–221 of the Natural  
27 Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, \$60,000,000 of the funds for State  
28 land acquisition under Program Open Space in the special fund established under § 13–209  
29 of the Tax – Property Article. A transfer of funds from the special fund established under §  
30 13–209 of the Tax – Property Article to the Park System Capital Improvements and  
31 Acquisition Fund under this section may not be taken into account for purposes of  
32 determining any allocation or appropriation required under § 13–209(f) or (g) of the Tax –  
33 Property Article.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Parks and Recreation  
35 Commission established in § 5–2A–03 of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by  
36 Section 1 of this Act, shall provide oversight to the Maryland Park Service on the  
37 implementation of this Act.



1           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2   1, 2022.