

HOUSE BILL 876

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By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Forestry Education Fund as a special,
4 nonlapsing fund to expand and enhance the Maryland Forestry Foundation’s
5 capacity to provide certain education and resources to forest landowners, the ability
6 of district forestry boards and the knowledge of local governments to achieve healthy
7 and sustainable forests, and the ability of businesses to test innovative best
8 management practices in forestry; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be
9 credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Maryland Forestry Education
10 Fund.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Natural Resources

13 Section 5–2001 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 20. Maryland Forestry
14 Education Fund”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

18 Article – State Finance and Procurement

19 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2021 Replacement Volume)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – State Finance and Procurement

24 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2021 Replacement Volume)

27 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – State Finance and Procurement
2 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146.
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

7 **Article – Natural Resources**

8 **SUBTITLE 20. MARYLAND FORESTRY EDUCATION FUND.**

9 **5–2001.**

10 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE MARYLAND FORESTRY
11 EDUCATION FUND.

12 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND FORESTRY EDUCATION FUND.

13 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE:

14 (1) THE MARYLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION’S CAPACITY TO
15 PROVIDE EDUCATION AND RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT MARYLAND’S FOREST
16 LANDOWNERS;

17 (2) THE ABILITY OF DISTRICT FORESTRY BOARDS AND THE
18 KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN MARYLAND TO ACHIEVE:

19 (I) ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL
20 SUSTAINABILITY OF FOREST HEALTH; AND

21 (II) THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES;
22 AND

23 (3) THE ABILITY OF BUSINESSES TO TEST INNOVATIVE BEST
24 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN FORESTRY.

25 (D) THE MARYLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE
26 FUND.

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

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

3 **(F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

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

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

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

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

9 **(1) PROVIDING TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO FOREST**
10 **LANDOWNERS, DISTRICT FORESTRY BOARDS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO**
11 **ENSURE THE LANDOWNERS, BOARDS, AND GOVERNMENTS ARE WELL-INFORMED ON**
12 **ADVANCES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN:**

13 **(I) HEALTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT;**

14 **(II) ECOLOGICAL SERVICE MARKETS;**

15 **(III) EMERGING FORESTRY THREATS;**

16 **(IV) CLIMATE SCIENCE;**

17 **(V) FOREST CONSERVATION;**

18 **(VI) URBAN FORESTRY;**

19 **(VII) SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE;**

20 **(VIII) FORESTRY POLICY;**

21 **(IX) FORESTRY PRACTICES; AND**

22 **(X) RESOURCE OPTIONS THAT PROMOTE THE MULTIPLE**
23 **BENEFITS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT;**

24 **(2) PROVIDING OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT THAT BUILDS LOCAL**
25 **CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONALIZES SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS WITHIN**
26 **COMMUNITIES AND THE DISTRICT FORESTRY BOARDS, INCLUDING:**

1 (I) HOLDING A FOREST SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE ONCE
2 EVERY 2 YEARS;

3 (II) IMPLEMENTING A PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING EXCHANGE;
4 AND

5 (III) PROVIDING HEALTHY FOREST PRESENTATIONS;

6 (3) DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING A HEALTHY FOREST EDUCATION
7 AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM;

8 (4) IMPROVING THE OUTREACH OF DISTRICT FORESTRY BOARDS BY
9 PROVIDING EDUCATION, RECOGNITION, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS THE BOARDS
10 CAN IMPLEMENT;

11 (5) PROVIDING SMALL GRANTS TO DISTRICT FORESTRY BOARDS,
12 FOREST LANDOWNERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND BUSINESSES TO TEST
13 INNOVATIVE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN FORESTRY;

14 (6) RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS FOREST LANDOWNERS AND LOCAL
15 GOVERNMENTS MAKE TOWARD ACHIEVING HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE FOREST
16 MANAGEMENT; AND

17 (7) EXPENSES RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.

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

20 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO
21 THE FUND.

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

24 (J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE OUTREACH, TRAINING,
25 EDUCATION, AND GRANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION IS
26 SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT
27 OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR FORESTRY EDUCATION AND
28 OUTREACH.

1 **(K) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
2 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
3 **\$750,000 TO THE FUND.**

4 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

5 6–226.

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

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

14 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

15 **[and]**

16 145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund; **AND**

17 **146. THE MARYLAND FORESTRY EDUCATION FUND.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2022.