

SENATE BILL 14

F2, M3

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0340
CF HB 100

By: **Senator Elfreth**

Requested: July 23, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund as a special,
4 nonlapsing fund to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland’s promotion and
5 support of communities in Maryland in the effort to realize environmental, economic,
6 and social sustainability; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to
7 the Fund; and generally relating to the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 13–105

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – State Finance and Procurement

15 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2021 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article – State Finance and Procurement

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

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2021 Replacement Volume)

23 BY adding to

24 Article – State Finance and Procurement

25 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146.

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2021 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Ensuring that Maryland communities are sustainable and environmentally responsible, and use resources efficiently to ensure a prosperous future, is of the utmost importance to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Maryland, a program of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus, supports the mission and priorities of State agencies by coordinating access to the full suite of State programs and resources that can support communities to enhance and expand local economies, infrastructure, and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Maryland helps Maryland communities to choose a direction for their greening efforts, complete their chosen actions with guidance from program tools, trainings, and other resources, and gain recognition for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Maryland acts as an extension arm of the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's Built Environment School serves the University of Maryland's land grant mission as a conduit for sharing and applying the research, education, and technical resources of the University with communities throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Maryland develops the next generation of leaders by offering students paid and volunteer opportunities to apply their knowledge, research, and skills to real-world local issues; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

13–105.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND PROGRAM FUND.

(B) THERE IS A SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND PROGRAM FUND.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND'S PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE IN THE EFFORT TO REALIZE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL

1 SUSTAINABILITY.

2 (D) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER
3 SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

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

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

8 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

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

10 (2) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

11 (3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR
12 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

13 (G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:

14 (1) OFFERING TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO ENSURE COMMUNITIES
15 ARE WELL INFORMED ON ADVANCES IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE, POLICY, AND
16 PRACTICE;

17 (2) OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY AND
18 INSTITUTIONALIZE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS WITHIN COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING:

19 (I) AN ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE;

20 (II) A PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING EXCHANGE; AND

21 (III) SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND GREEN TEAM ROADSHOWS;

22 (3) DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING THE SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND
23 PROGRAM;

24 (4) IMPROVING GREEN COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION TIERS WITH NEW
25 STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS;

26 (5) PROVIDING ANNUAL COMMUNITY INNOVATION SMALL GRANTS TO
27 HELP COMMUNITIES PILOT NEW INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES;

28 (6) RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY EFFORTS TOWARD ACHIEVING GREEN

1 CERTIFICATION; AND

2 (7) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE
3 MARYLAND PROGRAM.

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

6 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO
7 THE FUND.

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

10 (J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
11 MARYLAND PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE
12 PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE
13 SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND PROGRAM.

14 (K) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
15 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
16 \$750,000 TO THE FUND.

17 Article – State Finance and Procurement

18 6–226.

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

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

27 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;
28 [and]

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

30 146. THE SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND PROGRAM FUND.

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

1 1, 2022.