

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 96 (Senator Ellis)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Community Parks and Playgrounds Program - Charles County - Basketball
Courts**

This bill expands the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make grants available to Charles County for the construction and maintenance of basketball courts at county parks with baseball fields. The bill requires the governing body of Charles County to apply for grants under the program and use grant funding received for the specified purposes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not change the amount of funding spent under the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program. The Governor's proposed FY 2023 capital budget includes \$5.0 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for the program.

Local Effect: The bill does not affect the amount of Community Parks and Playgrounds funding allocated to local governments overall. However, Charles County benefits by being newly eligible for funding under the program, and the resulting increased competition for grants may limit funding available to municipalities and Baltimore City.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program, funding in the form of flexible grants is made available to the governing bodies of municipal corporations and Baltimore City to (1) rehabilitate, expand, improve, or maintain existing parks; (2) purchase land to create new parks; (3) develop new parks; (4) purchase and install

playground equipment in urban neighborhoods and rural areas throughout the State; or (5) be used for environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects. The program is administered by DNR's Program Open Space.

Additional Comments: The Governor's proposed fiscal 2023 capital budget includes \$5.0 million in GO bond funding for the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for 39 projects in 39 municipalities (in 18 different counties). The Governor's five-year *Capital Improvement Program* includes \$2.5 million in GO bond funding for fiscal 2024 and \$5.0 million annually from fiscal 2025 through 2027.

DNR advises that it received 69 grant applications requesting a total of \$9.3 million in funding for the fiscal 2023 grant application round.

DNR's *FY 2023 Grant Proposal Guide* for the program indicates that grants may be for up to 100% of the project cost and are selected on a competitive basis. DNR reviews applications and makes recommendations for grant selections, which are forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management for potential inclusion in the Governor's proposed capital budget. Once the capital budget is approved by the General Assembly, selected projects are submitted for State Clearinghouse review and to the Board of Public Works for final approval.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2022
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