

HOUSE BILL 289

M1
HB 876/22 – ENT

3lr1118
CF 3lr1477

By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

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 2022 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 and 2022 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – State Finance and Procurement

24 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii) 170. and 171.

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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)172.
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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.

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

1 (F) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

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

3 (2) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

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

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

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

11 (I) HEALTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT;

12 (II) ECOLOGICAL SERVICE MARKETS;

13 (III) EMERGING FORESTRY THREATS;

14 (IV) CLIMATE SCIENCE;

15 (V) FOREST CONSERVATION;

16 (VI) URBAN FORESTRY;

17 (VII) SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE;

18 (VIII) FORESTRY POLICY;

19 (IX) FORESTRY PRACTICES; AND

20 (X) RESOURCE OPTIONS THAT PROMOTE THE MULTIPLE
21 BENEFITS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT;

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

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

1 (II) IMPLEMENTING A PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING EXCHANGE;
2 AND

3 (III) PROVIDING HEALTHY FOREST PRESENTATIONS;

4 (3) DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING A HEALTHY FOREST EDUCATION
5 AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM;

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO
19 THE FUND.

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

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

27 (K) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
28 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
29 \$250,000 TO THE FUND.

30 Article – State Finance and Procurement

31 6–226.

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

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

9 170. the Cannabis Public Health Fund; [and]

10 171. the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund; AND

11 **172. THE MARYLAND FORESTRY EDUCATION FUND.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2023.