

HOUSE BILL 696

M2

3lr2876
CF SB 422

By: **Delegate Addison**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Black Bass Conservation Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Black Bass Conservation Fund as a special, nonlapsing
4 fund; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a process through
5 which an individual who purchases a certain license online may make a voluntary
6 donation to the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the
7 Fund; and generally relating to the Black Bass Conservation Fund.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 1–403
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Natural Resources
15 Section 4–209.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article – State Finance and Procurement
20 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – State Finance and Procurement
3 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)170. and 171.
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

6 BY adding to
7 Article – State Finance and Procurement
8 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)172.
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 1–403.

15 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the Department may
16 develop and implement an electronic system for the sale and issuance of licenses, permits,
17 and registrations and the recording and releasing of security interests.

18 (b) The electronic system may include provisions for:

19 (1) Recording titling and registration data;

20 (2) Recording and releasing liens without the issuance of a security interest
21 filing; and

22 (3) Recording information relating to an application for a license, permit,
23 or registration.

24 (c) The Department shall develop the electronic system consistent with the
25 statewide information technology master plan developed under Title 3.5, Subtitle 3 of the
26 State Finance and Procurement Article.

27 (d) (1) Subject to subsection [(f)] (G) of this section, the Department shall
28 establish a process through which an individual who purchases an angler’s license, a
29 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license and any
30 corresponding stamps through the electronic system may make a voluntary monetary
31 donation to the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund at the time of purchase.

32 (2) The Department shall collect the donations received under paragraph
33 (1) of this subsection and deposit them into the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

1 (e) (1) Subject to subsection [(f)] (G) of this section, the Department shall
2 establish a process through which an individual who purchases a license, permit, or
3 registration through the electronic system may make a voluntary monetary donation to the
4 Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund at
5 the time the license, permit, or registration is purchased.

6 (2) The Department shall:

7 (i) Collect any donations made under this subsection; and

8 (ii) Distribute the proceeds of the donations as follows:

9 1. 50% to the Chesapeake Bay Trust established under §
10 8–1902 of this article; and

11 2. 50% to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010
12 Trust Fund established under § 8–2A–02 of this article.

13 (3) (i) The Chesapeake Bay Trust may use the funds it receives under
14 this subsection only to provide grants and other resources to nonprofit organizations,
15 community associations, civic groups, schools, or public agencies for projects to enhance or
16 promote:

17 1. Public education, including the publication or production
18 of educational materials, concerning the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland coastal bays, the
19 Youghiogheny watershed, and other natural resources;

20 2. The preservation or enhancement of water quality and fish
21 or wildlife habitat;

22 3. The restoration of aquatic or land resources;

23 4. Reforestation; and

24 5. Training in environmental studies or enhancement.

25 (ii) Funds distributed to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays
26 2010 Trust Fund may be used to provide financial assistance necessary to advance
27 Maryland's progress in meeting the goals established in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay
28 Watershed Agreement and to restore the health of the Atlantic Coastal Bays by focusing
29 on nonpoint source pollution control projects, as authorized under Title 8, Subtitle 2A of
30 this article.

31 (4) On or before December 1 each year, the Department shall report to the
32 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General
33 Assembly on the collection, distribution, and expenditure of any voluntary monetary
34 donations made under this subsection in the previous fiscal year.

1 (f) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THE
2 DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
3 PURCHASES AN ANGLER'S LICENSE OR A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT
4 FISHING LICENSE THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM MAY MAKE A VOLUNTARY
5 MONETARY DONATION TO THE BLACK BASS CONSERVATION FUND AT THE TIME OF
6 PURCHASE.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT THE DONATIONS RECEIVED
8 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND DEPOSIT THEM INTO THE BLACK
9 BASS CONSERVATION FUND, ESTABLISHED UNDER § 4-209.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 (G) The donation process established under subsections [(d) and (e)] (D), (E), AND
11 (F) of this section:

12 (1) Shall be made available only to an individual purchasing directly
13 through the electronic system;

14 (2) May not be made available to an individual purchasing through an
15 authorized vendor; and

16 (3) Shall be limited to providing not more than two options to which an
17 individual may make a monetary donation.

18 [(g)] (H) The Department may adopt regulations to:

19 (1) Implement the electronic system authorized under this section; and

20 (2) Determine the appropriate fee levels that may be charged by a vendor
21 and by the Department for the electronic transmission service.

22 **4-209.1.**

23 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE BLACK BASS CONSERVATION
24 FUND.

25 (B) THERE IS A BLACK BASS CONSERVATION FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.

26 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO FURTHER BLACK BASS
27 MANAGEMENT.

28 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

29 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
30 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) DONATIONS COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 1-403(F)
5 OF THIS ARTICLE;

6 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;
7 ~~AND~~

8 (3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

9 (4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR
10 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

11 (G) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY IN THE FUND TO:

12 (1) STOCK BLACK BASS;

13 (2) ENHANCE AQUATIC HABITATS FOR BLACK BASS;

14 (3) SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE BLACK BASS TOURNAMENTS; AND

15 (4) SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RELATED TO BLACK BASS
16 CONSERVATION.

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

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

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement

22 6-226.

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

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

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

4 171. the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund; AND

5 172. THE BLACK BASS CONSERVATION FUND.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.