

HOUSE BILL 228

M1

(4lr0306)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Environment and Transportation and Appropriations/Budget and Taxation* —

Introduced by **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee and Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Maryland State Parks – Funds and Plan Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of extending the date by which the Park System Critical Maintenance
4 Fund must be expended; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to expend
5 up to a certain amount from the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund under
6 certain circumstances; authorizing the Park System Capital Improvements and
7 Acquisition Fund to be used for State projects on lands managed by the Department
8 ~~of Natural Resources~~ for public purposes; altering the allowable uses of funds for the
9 initial allocation to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund;
10 authorizing the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to be used for promoting outdoor
11 environmental education in the State; ~~requiring the Department to report on certain~~
12 ~~matters at each meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission~~; requiring the
13 Department to report certain expenditures to the Parks and Recreation Commission

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 at certain meetings; extending the date by which the Department is required to
 2 develop and publish a Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan; and generally
 3 relating to the State park system.

4 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

5 Article – Natural Resources

6 Section 5–220(a) through (c) and (g), 5–221(a) and (b), ~~and~~ 5–222(a) and (b), and
 7 5–2A–03(a)(1)

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Natural Resources

12 Section 5–220(k), 5–221(c), (g), (j), and (l), 5–222(c), (g), and (k), 5–2A–03(e), and
 13 5–2A–05(a)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Natural Resources

18 Section 5–220(l)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Natural Resources**

24 5–220.

25 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund.

26 (b) There is a Park System Critical Maintenance Fund.

27 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for completing State projects
 28 that address critical maintenance concerns on lands managed by the Department for public
 29 purposes.

30 (g) The Fund may be used only for State park projects that address critical
 31 maintenance concerns on lands managed by the Department for public purposes.

32 (k) (1) For fiscal year 2024 only, the Governor shall include in the annual
 33 budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$70,000,000 to the Fund for
 34 State projects that address critical maintenance concerns on lands managed by the
 35 Department for public purposes.

(2) The Department shall expend the funds allocated under this subsection before July 1, [2026] **2029**.

(L) NOTWITHSTANDING § 13-109 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO \$400,000 FOR A PROJECT THAT ADDRESSES CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS FROM THE FUND WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES.

5-221.

(a) In this section, “Fund” means the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund.

(b) There is a Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund.

(c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for:

(1) Completing State [park] projects related to capital improvements on lands managed by the Department for public purposes; and

(2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes [as a State park].

(g) The Fund may be used only for:

(1) Completing State [park] projects related to capital improvements on lands managed by the Department for public purposes; and

(2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes [as a State park].

(j) Money expended from the Fund for capital improvements [in the State’s parks] **FOR STATE PROJECTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES** ~~is supplemental~~ **IS:**

(1) SUPPLEMENTAL to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for capital improvements [in the State’s parks] **FOR STATE PROJECTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES** and the acquisition of land by the Department that will be managed for public purposes; **AND**

(2) INTENDED TO:

(1) EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

1 **(II) ALLEVIATE OVERCAPACITY WITHIN THE STATE PARK**
2 **SYSTEM.**

3 (l) The first \$70,000,000 received by the Fund may be used only as follows:

4 (1) **AT LEAST** \$5,000,000 for infrastructure projects that mitigate the
5 effects of climate change, including:

6 (i) Flood barriers;

7 (ii) Forest buffers;

8 (iii) Green spaces;

9 (iv) Building elevation;

10 (v) Stormwater infrastructure;

11 (vi) Wetlands restoration; and

12 (vii) Addressing environmental justice concerns;

13 (2) **AT LEAST** \$5,000,000 for historic preservation, in accordance with
14 subsection (m) of this section;

15 (3) **AT LEAST** \$20,000,000 for transportation improvements, including:

16 (i) Improving bike lanes and trails, increasing walkability, and
17 expanding parking availability; and

18 (ii) Targeting transportation investments to avoid capacity
19 shutdowns;

20 (4) **AT LEAST** \$10,000,000 for increasing water access, including kayak
21 and boat launches and areas for picnicking near water and swimming; and

22 (5) **UP TO** \$30,000,000 for land acquisition, including:

23 (i) Areas in the central and southern regions of the State that will:

24 1. Relieve overcrowding at existing State parks; and

25 2. Expand public access to State parks and outdoor
26 recreation;

1 (ii) Sites of significance to the history of African American, Asian,
2 Indigenous or Native American, and Hispanic or Latino populations in the State; and

3 (iii) Beachfront or waterfront property for public access.

4 5-222.

5 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund.

6 (b) There is a Great Maryland Outdoors Fund in the Department.

7 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to:

8 (1) Support the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Department;

9 (2) Provide resources to improve existing and create new outdoor
10 recreation **AND OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** opportunities; [and]

11 (3) Implement the recommendations of the Maryland Outdoor Recreation
12 Economic Commission to promote and grow the outdoor recreation sector in the State; **AND**

13 **(4) PROMOTE AND GROW OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN**
14 **THE STATE.**

15 (g) The Fund may be used only for:

16 (1) Implementing the recommendations of the Maryland Outdoor
17 Recreation Economic Commission[, including establishing and supporting an Office of
18 Outdoor Recreation in the Department];

19 (2) Department projects and programs that provide, promote, and enhance
20 outdoor recreation **OR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** opportunities in the
21 State; and

22 (3) Awarding grants to destination marketing organizations for the
23 purpose of promoting and marketing State parks.

24 (k) Money expended from the Fund for existing programs in the Department that
25 provide, promote, and enhance outdoor recreation **OR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL**
26 **EDUCATION** opportunities is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of
27 funding that otherwise would be appropriated for those programs.

28 5-2A-03.

29 (a) (1) There is a Parks and Recreation Commission in the Department.

1 (e) (1) The Commission shall meet quarterly to review the status of the Park
2 Service.

3 (2) AT EACH MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE
4 COMMISSION ON EXPENDITURES FROM THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL
5 IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION FUND.

6 5-2A-05.

7 (a) The Department shall:

8 (1) Develop and publish a Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan by
9 December 1, [2023] **2024**;

10 (2) Update the Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan every 5 years
11 to reflect major goals and progress toward meeting those goals; and

12 (3) Submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
13 State Government Article, the Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan and any updates
14 to the plan.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.