

# HOUSE BILL 1181

M1

5lr3111  
CF SB 781

---

By: ~~Delegate Baker~~ **Delegates Baker, Schindler, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 27, 2025

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park  
4 Dedicated to Veterans' Care to study issues and estimate costs related to the  
5 establishment of a State park dedicated to providing recreational opportunities and  
6 therapeutic services to veterans; and generally relating to the Task Force on the  
7 Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to  
11 Veterans' Care.

12 (b) (1) The Task Force shall include the following members:

13 (i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
14 President of the Senate;

15 (ii) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
16 of the House;

17 (iii) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

---

### 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 (iv) the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families, or the  
2 Secretary's designee;

3 (v) the Director of the Maryland Park Service, or the Director's  
4 designee;

5 (vi) one county commissioner of Washington County, appointed by  
6 the President of the Washington County Board of Commissioners;

7 (vii) the County Administrator of Washington County, or the County  
8 Administrator's designee;

9 (viii) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Natural  
10 Resources:

11 1. one representative of the Hagerstown–Washington  
12 County Convention and Visitors Bureau;

13 2. one representative of an organization that provides  
14 therapeutic services to veterans; and

15 3. the owner of land located in the Southern portion of  
16 Washington County that has been proposed for transfer to the State for the purpose of  
17 establishing a State park dedicated to veterans' care; and

18 (ix) one resident from legislative district 2 in Washington County,  
19 designated by a majority of the members of the Washington County Delegation to the  
20 General Assembly.

21 (2) In addition to the members specified under paragraph (1) of this  
22 subsection, the Secretary of Natural Resources may invite a representative of the National  
23 Park Service and any other relevant stakeholders to serve as members of the Task Force.

24 (c) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall designate the chair of the Task  
25 Force.

26 (d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

27 (e) A member of the Task Force:

28 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

29 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
30 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

31 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) study issues and estimate costs related to the establishment of a State  
2 park dedicated to providing recreational opportunities and therapeutic services to veterans;

3 (2) make recommendations regarding:

4 (i) services and amenities to be provided by the park;

5 (ii) operational models for the park, including how operational and  
6 maintenance responsibilities could be shared between the Maryland Park Service and  
7 partner organizations;

8 (iii) options for funding the initial start-up costs of the park,  
9 including infrastructure and capital costs; and

10 (iv) self-sustaining funding models for the ongoing operational costs  
11 of the park; and

12 (3) develop an action plan identifying next steps for the establishment of  
13 the park.

14 (g) On or before December 1, 2026, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
16 Government Article, the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and  
17 the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,  
20 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
21 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

---

President of the Senate.