

# HOUSE BILL 1184

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EMERGENCY BILL

5lr2445  
CF SB 477

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By: **Delegates Reilly, Arentz, Ghrist, Griffith, and Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Port of Deposit State Historical Park – Size and Scope**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the size and scope of the Port of Deposit State Historical Park;  
4 extending the deadline for the Bainbridge Development Corporation to transfer  
5 certain property to the Department of Natural Resources; altering the purpose for  
6 which a certain appropriation may be used; and generally relating to the Port of  
7 Deposit State Historical Park.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 5–1012(g)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Chapter 39 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022, as amended by Chapter 602  
15 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
16 Section 5

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Chapter 602 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
19 Section 2

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

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 5–1012.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (g) (1) (i) The Department shall establish the Port of Deposit State  
2 Historical Park as a partnership park that seeks to educate the public about and preserve  
3 and interpret the lives and experiences of Black Americans both before and after the  
4 abolition of slavery.

5 (ii) Port of Deposit State Historical Park shall be held by the State  
6 as a State park under the protection and administration of the Department.

7 (2) Port of Deposit State Historical Park shall consist of a portion of the  
8 Bainbridge Naval Training Center site, measuring not less than [120] 12 acres and not  
9 more than [150] 19 acres, that the Bainbridge Development Corporation transfers to the  
10 Department, including:

11 (i) [The historic Tome School;

12 (ii)] The Snow Hill archaeological site; and

13 [(iii)] (II) The adjacent wooded conservation area.

14 (3) (i) The Department shall establish a stakeholder advisory  
15 committee to advise the Department on the scope and management of Port of Deposit State  
16 Historical Park.

17 (ii) The stakeholder advisory committee shall consist of the following  
18 members:

19 1. One member designated by the Mayor and Town Council  
20 of Port Deposit;

21 2. Two members of the House of Delegates and one member  
22 of the Senate of Maryland representing Cecil County, designated by the Cecil County  
23 Delegation of the General Assembly;

24 3. The County Executive of Cecil County, or the County  
25 Executive's designee;

26 4. The President of the Cecil County Council, or the  
27 President's designee;

28 5. The President of the Cecil County branch of the NAACP,  
29 or the President's designee;

30 6. The President of the Historical Society of Cecil County, or  
31 the President's designee;

32 7. The Director of the Cecil County Department of Parks and  
33 Recreation;

1  
2 the Chair's designee;

8. The Chair of the Bainbridge Development Corporation, or

3  
4 Transportation, State Highway Administration, or the Chief Archaeologist's designee; and

9. The Chief Archaeologist of the Maryland Department of

5  
6  
7 10. The following nonvoting ex officio members:

A. The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;

B. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

8  
9 designee;

C. The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's

10  
11 D. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

E. The Director of the Maryland Historical Trust, or the

12 Director's designee;

F. The President of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage

14 Greenway, or the President's designee;

G. The Superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools;

H. The Executive Director of the Cecil County Public Library;

17 and

I. The President of Cecil College.

19  
20 (iii) To the extent practicable, the stakeholder advisory committee shall reflect the diversity of Cecil County.

21  
22 (4) On or before September 1, 2024, the Department shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article on:

23  
24 (i) Property that is suitable for inclusion in Port of Deposit State Historical Park;

25  
26 (ii) The funding needed to establish and promote Port of Deposit State Historical Park; and

27  
28 (iii) The appropriate manner of preserving property that is not identified for inclusion in Port of Deposit State Historical Park in perpetuity for its archaeological, historical, and cultural significance.

1 **Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2022, as amended by Chapter 602 of the Acts of 2023**

2 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

3 (a) On or before June 1, ~~[2025]~~ **2026**, the Bainbridge Development Corporation  
4 shall transfer to the Department of Natural Resources a portion of the Bainbridge Naval  
5 Training Center site consisting of not less than ~~[120]~~ **12** acres and not more than ~~[150]~~ **19**  
6 acres, including:

7 (1) ~~[the historic Tome School;~~

8 (2)] the Snow Hill archaeological site; and

9 ~~[(3)]~~ **(2)** the adjacent wooded conservation area.

10 (b) Any property transferred to the Department of Natural Resources under this  
11 section that is not included in Port of Deposit State Historical Park shall be preserved in  
12 perpetuity for its archaeological, historical, and cultural significance, in accordance with  
13 the recommendations of the stakeholder advisory committee established under § 5–1012(g)  
14 of the Natural Resources Article.

15 **Chapter 602 of the Acts of 2023**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for fiscal year 2025, the  
17 Governor may include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least \$400,000 to  
18 the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Survey and Soil  
19 Study for the ~~[Tome School and]~~ Snow Hill ~~[sites]~~ **SITE**.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
21 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
22 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to  
23 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
24 enacted.