M1, C5 5lr2076 CF SB 699

By: Delegates Rose, Buckel, Griffith, Hornberger, Mangione, McComas, Miller, Pippy, Reilly, and Stonko

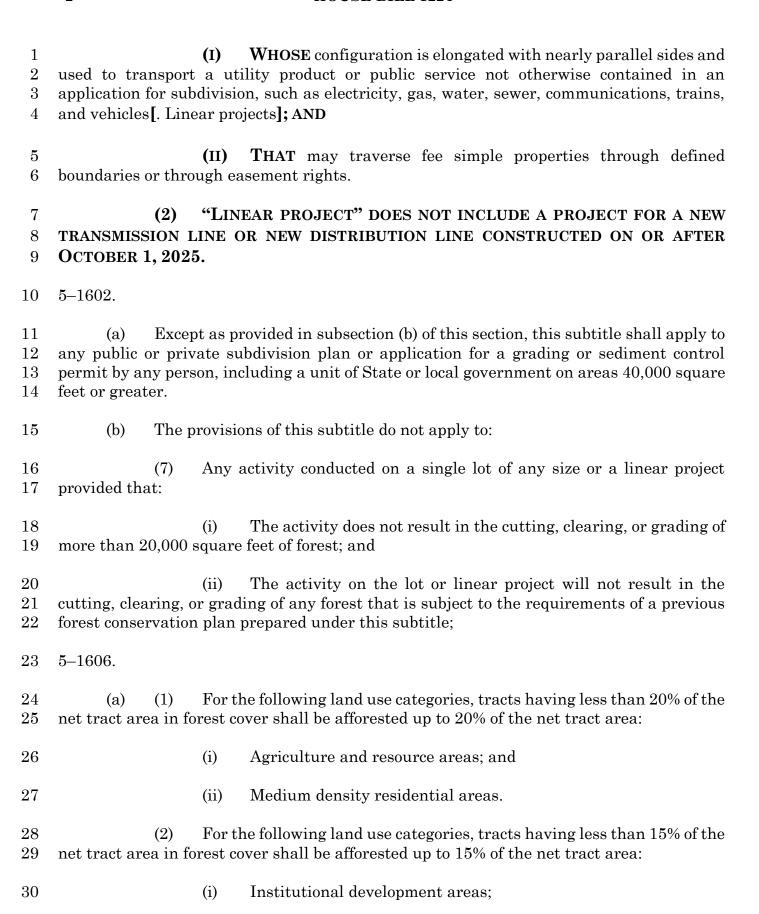
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning		
2	Forest Conservation Act - Linear Projects - Alteration		
3	FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "linear project" under the Forest Conservation		
4	Act to exclude a project for a new transmission line or new distribution line		
5	constructed on or after a certain date; and generally relating to tree removal and		
6	replacement by electric companies.		
7	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,		
8	Article – Natural Resources		
9	Section 5–1601(a), 5–1602(a) and (b)(7), and 5–1606(a)		
10	Annotated Code of Maryland		
11	(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)		
12	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,		
13	Article – Natural Resources		
14	Section 5–1601(u)		
15	Annotated Code of Maryland		
16	(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)		
17	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,		
18	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:		
19	Article - Natural Resources		
20	5–1601.		
21	(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.		
22	(u) (1) "Linear project" means a project [whose]:		





1	(ii)	High density residential areas;	
2	(iii)	Mixed use and planned unit development areas; and	
3	(iv)	Commercial and industrial use areas.	
4 5 6	(3) Afforestation requirements must conform to the conditions in §§ 5–160 and 5–1610 of this subtitle, including payment into the Forest Conservation Fund, afforestation on–site or off–site cannot be reasonably accomplished.		
7 8 9	(4) (i) accomplished within 1 y project.	The afforestation requirements under this subsection shall be ear or 2 growing seasons after the completion of the development	
10 11 12 13	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	If afforestation cannot be reasonably accomplished on—site or at to contribute money to a Forest Conservation Fund under § nall be met within 90 days after the completion of the development	
14 15	(5) Linea to afforestation requirem	ar projects that involve no change in land use may not be subject nents.	
16 17	(6) Solar requirements under this	photovoltaic facilities may not be subject to afforestation subtitle.	
18	SECTION 2 ANI) BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That this Act shall take effect.	

October 1, 2025.

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