

# SENATE BILL 968

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By: **Howard County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Patuxent River Wildland – Use of Motor Vehicles and**  
3 **Motorized Equipment**

4 **Ho. Co. 5–25**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to enter into certain  
6 use agreements to facilitate the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment for  
7 the purpose of maintaining certain paths within the Patuxent River Wildland; and  
8 generally relating to the Patuxent River Wildland.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 5–1212  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Natural Resources**

17 5–1212.

18 **(A)** Except as provided in Part II of this subtitle, and subject to existing private  
19 rights, a commercial enterprise or permanent road, except fire roads, may not exist within  
20 any wildlife area designated by Part II of this subtitle.

21 **(B) (1)** Except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the  
22 administration of the area for the purpose of Part II of this subtitle, including measures  
23 required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area, **AND**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, there shall be no  
2 temporary road, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of  
3 aircraft, or other forms of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any  
4 area.

5 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO USE AGREEMENTS WITH**  
6 **VOLUNTEERS TO FACILITATE THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORIZED**  
7 **EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE PATUXENT RIVER WILDLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF**  
8 **MAINTAINING EXISTING PATHS TO ENSURE CLEAR AND SAFE ACCESS TO THE**  
9 **WILDLAND.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2025.