

Chapter 113

(Senate Bill 164)

AN ACT concerning

**Natural Resources – Pamela J. Kelly Tree–Mendous Maryland Program
– Alterations**

FOR the purpose of altering the stated purpose of the Pamela J. Kelly Tree–Mendous Maryland Program to include ~~the advancement of forest health and resilience through~~ the promotion of community participation in tree planting and stewardship and the planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs through community forestry activities; and generally relating to the Pamela J. Kelly Tree–Mendous Maryland Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 5–435
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

5–435.

(a) There is a Pamela J. Kelly Tree–Mendous Maryland Program in the Department.

(b) The Program is established for the purpose of ~~ADVANCING FOREST HEALTH AND RESILIENCE BY PROMOTING, planting, AND MAINTAINING~~ PROMOTING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE TREE PLANTING AND STEWARDSHIP AND THE PLANTING AND MAINTAINING OF native trees and shrubs THROUGH COMMUNITY FORESTRY ACTIVITIES on public lands, community open spaces, school grounds, and rights-of-way.

(c) The Department shall administer the Program.

(d) The Department may adopt regulations to carry out this part.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2026.