

HOUSE BILL 255

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0134
CF SB 164

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources) and Delegates Boyce, Holmes, and Odom**

Requested: September 26, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Natural Resources
12 Section 5–435
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Natural Resources**

18 5–435.

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

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

8 (c) The Department shall administer the Program.

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.