

HOUSE BILL 1207

M1

6lr3142

By: **Delegate Hinebaugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund – Alteration and Mandatory**
3 **Appropriation**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the purpose and authorized uses of the State Lakes Protection
5 and Restoration Fund; requiring, for certain fiscal years, the Governor to include in
6 the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Fund to be used for a certain
7 purpose; and generally relating to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 8–205

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 8–205.

17 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the State Lakes Protection and Restoration
18 Fund.

19 (b) There is a State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund.

20 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to protect and restore State–owned AND
21 **STATE–MANAGED** lakes.

22 (d) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (e) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of
2 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

3 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
4 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

5 (f) The Fund consists of:

6 (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

7 (2) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the
8 Fund.

9 (g) The Fund may be used only for the protection or restoration of State–owned
10 **OR STATE–MANAGED** lakes **BY:**

11 **(1) REMOVING SEDIMENT;**

12 **(2) TREATING CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT;**

13 **(3) PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES;**

14 **(4) IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUE; AND**

15 **(5) TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS**
16 **NECESSARY.**

17 (h) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same
18 manner as other State money may be invested.

19 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

20 (i) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State
21 budget.

22 (j) Money expended from the Fund for the protection or restoration of
23 State–owned **OR STATE–MANAGED** lakes is supplemental to and is not intended to take
24 the place of funding that would otherwise be appropriated for the protection or restoration
25 of State–owned **OR STATE–MANAGED** lakes.

26 **(K) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2028 AND 2029, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN**
27 **THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE FUND TO BE**
28 **USED SOLELY FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF DEEP CREEK LAKE.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029,
3 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
4 of no further force and effect.