

# HOUSE BILL 1314

M1, M3

6lr3008

---

By: **Delegate Ivey**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Chesapeake Bay Trust – Urban Trees Program**

3 FOR the purpose of continuing the Urban Trees Program administered by the Chesapeake  
4 Bay Trust; making permanent a requirement that the Governor include a certain  
5 appropriation in the annual budget bill for the Urban Trees Program; and generally  
6 relating to the Urban Trees Program administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Natural Resources  
9 Section 8–1901(a) and (c) and 8–1911(b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 8–1911(h)(1)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 8–1911  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Natural Resources**

25 8–1901.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (c) “Trust” means the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

3 8–1911.

4 (b) There is an Urban Trees Program administered by the Trust.

5 (h) (1) [For fiscal years 2024 through 2031, in] **FOR** each **FISCAL** year the  
6 Governor shall include in the annual State budget an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the  
7 Program.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
9 as follows:

10 **Article – Natural Resources**

11 **8–1911.**

12 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
13 **INDICATED.**

14 **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE URBAN TREES PROGRAM.**

15 **(3) “QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION” MEANS:**

16 **(I) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION;**

17 **(II) A SCHOOL;**

18 **(III) A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION;**

19 **(IV) A SERVICE, YOUTH, OR CIVIC GROUP;**

20 **(V) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

21 **(VI) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY; OR**

22 **(VII) A FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD.**

23 **(4) “UNDERSERVED AREA” MEANS AN AREA OF THE STATE FALLING**  
24 **WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF:**

1 (I) AN URBAN AREA, AS DELINEATED BY THE U.S. CENSUS  
2 BUREAU; AND

3 (II) 1. A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WAS, AT ANY POINT IN TIME,  
4 REDLINED OR GRADED AS "HAZARDOUS" BY THE HOME OWNERS' LOAN  
5 CORPORATION;

6 2. A CENSUS TRACT WITH AN AVERAGE RATE OF  
7 UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE MOST RECENT 24-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE  
8 AVAILABLE THAT EXCEEDS THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE  
9 STATE;

10 3. A CENSUS TRACT WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD  
11 INCOME FOR THE MOST RECENT 24-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE  
12 AVAILABLE THAT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 75% OF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD  
13 INCOME FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD; OR

14 4. A HOUSING PROJECT AS DEFINED IN § 12-101 OF THE  
15 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.

16 (B) THERE IS AN URBAN TREES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE TRUST.

17 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PLANT NATIVE SPECIES OF  
18 TREES IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

19 (D) (1) THE TRUST SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS  
20 FOR TREE-PLANTING PROJECTS IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

21 (2) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM EXPENSES INCLUDE PERSONNEL COSTS,  
22 SUPPLIES, SITE PREPARATION, AND OTHER EXPENSES AND MATERIALS RELATED TO  
23 PLANNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MAINTAINING TREE-PLANTING PROJECTS IN  
24 UNDERSERVED AREAS.

25 (3) IN AWARDING PROGRAM GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE  
26 TRUST SHALL PRIORITIZE:

27 (I) GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS  
28 LOCATED IN THE UNDERSERVED AREAS WHERE THE PROPOSED TREE-PLANTING  
29 PROJECTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED; AND

30 (II) GRANT APPLICATIONS THAT INCLUDE PLANS FOR  
31 ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR BUSINESSES LOCATED IN

1 UNDERSERVED AREAS TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN TREE-PLANTING PROJECTS  
2 IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

3 (E) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED WITH ANY FUNDS THAT MAY BE  
4 ALLOCATED BY THE TRUST THROUGH ITS ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS.

5 (2) THE TRUST SHALL SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS AND GRANTS AND  
6 DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES TO BE MADE TO THE TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE  
7 OF THE PROGRAM.

8 (F) A GRANT AGREEMENT REGARDING FUNDS FROM THE TRUST FOR THE  
9 PROGRAM SHALL:

10 (1) SPECIFY THE ALLOWED USE OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER  
11 THE GRANT; AND

12 (2) INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR VERIFICATION THAT TREE-PLANTING  
13 PROJECTS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AND MAINTAINED AS PLANNED.

14 (G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE TRUST SHALL REPORT TO  
15 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE GRANTS  
16 AWARDED BY THE PROGRAM DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR,  
17 INCLUDING:

18 (1) THE NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS;

19 (2) THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF TREES PLANTED BY GRANT  
20 RECIPIENTS; AND

21 (3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR  
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

23 (H) (1) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE  
24 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

25 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS  
26 SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND MAY NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE  
27 WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take  
29 effect on the termination of Section 3 of Chapter 645 of the Acts of the General Assembly  
30 of 2021, in accordance with the termination provision specified in Section 11 of Chapter 645  
31 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1  
32 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated

1 and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on  
2 that termination provision.

3           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
4 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.