

SENATE BILL 164

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0133
CF HB 255

By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 26, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 7, 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 maintenance of native trees and shrubs through community forestry activities;
8 and generally relating to the Pamela J. Kelly Tree–Mendous Maryland Program.

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

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, AND MAINTAINING~~ PROMOTING
5 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANTING AND STEWARDSHIP OF native trees
6 and shrubs THROUGH COMMUNITY FORESTRY ACTIVITIES on public lands, community
7 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.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.