

SENATE BILL 225

M3

6lr1160

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators M. Washington and Brooks**

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Interjurisdictional Watersheds – Flood Management**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for the designation of certain watersheds as
4 interjurisdictional flood hazard watersheds for certain planning purposes; and
5 generally relating to interjurisdictional watersheds and flood management.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

7 Article – Environment

8 Section 5–503(c)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Environment

13 Section 5–803(d) and (e)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Environment**

19 5–503.

20 (c) (1) The Department, by regulation, may designate interjurisdictional
21 watersheds in which any impoundment proposal is subject to review and approval by the
22 Department for standards relating to safety and flood control.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run, situated in or adjacent to Baltimore City, are designated interjurisdictional watersheds.

3 5-803.

4 (d) (1) (I) By July 1, 1990 each subdivision, in cooperation with the
5 Departments of the Environment and Agriculture, the Department of Planning, and other
6 appropriate State agencies, shall prepare a flood management plan based upon an
7 evaluation of the alternative management techniques and other findings included in
8 studies conducted under subsection (b) of this section.

11 (2) Management techniques may include:

12 (i) Flood control dams;

13 (ii) Levees and dikes;

14 (iii) Stormwater detention or retention structures;

15 (iv) Public acquisition;

16 (v) Flood proofing;

17 (vi) Storm drain and stream maintenance;

18 (vii) Tax adjustment policies;

19 (viii) Subdivision, zoning, and related ordinances; and

(ix) Other practical methods.

21 (3) Management techniques shall include flood warning systems.

22 (e) (1) (I) In any interjurisdictional watershed, those portions of the flood
23 management plans of the subdivisions relating to the watershed shall be subject to review
24 and approval by the Department as one plan.

(III) Disapproval of a plan shall be based only on flood management considerations.

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