

SENATE BILL 226

I1, P1

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0061

CF HB 238

By: Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Planning)

Requested: September 16, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Maryland Heritage Area Authority and Heritage Areas – Alterations

3 FOR the purpose of altering the voting membership of the Maryland Heritage Area
4 Authority; increasing the number of voting members of the Authority that
5 constitutes a quorum; repealing the requirement that the Authority send copies of
6 boundary maps to certain county clerks; repealing the requirement that certain
7 State officials develop certain program statements and instead requiring certain
8 State officials and certain units of State government to support and assist certain
9 activities in certified heritage areas in certain ways; authorizing the Authority to
10 award certain grants and loans for certain purposes in a certain manner; repealing
11 certain requirements for certain grants and loans; and generally relating to the
12 Maryland Heritage Area Authority and heritage areas.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Financial Institutions

15 Section 13–1104(a), 13–1105, 13–1110(d) and (e), 13–1112, and 13–1113

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 Article – Financial Institutions

21 13–1104.

22 (a) The Authority consists of:

23 (1) The Secretary of Housing and Community Development;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (2) The Secretary of Commerce;
- (3) The Secretary of Higher Education;
- (4) The Secretary of Transportation;
- (5) The Secretary of Natural Resources;
- (6) The Secretary of [the Department of] Planning;
- (7) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE;**
- (8) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS;**
- [7] (9) The State Historic Preservation Officer; and**
- [8] (10) Ten members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate:**
 - (i) Two of whom shall be elected officials or representatives of local governments;
 - (ii) Two of whom shall be appointed from names recommended by the Maryland Senate;
 - (iii) Two of whom shall be appointed from names recommended by the House of Delegates;
 - (iv) [One of whom is a public member of the Maryland Greenways Commission;]
 - [v] One of whom is a public member of the Maryland Tourism and Recreation Board;**
 - (v) ONE OF WHOM IS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY;**
 - (vi) One of whom is a member of the public who has significant experience in historic preservation; and
 - (vii) One of whom is a member of the public who has significant experience in heritage tourism.

(a) [Nine] TEN voting members of the Authority are a quorum.

(b) An action of the Authority must receive the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the voting members of the Authority.

(c) The Authority shall determine the times and places of its meetings.

(d) A member of the Authority:

(1) May not receive compensation; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State regulations, as provided in the State budget.

9 13-1110.

10 (d) (1) The boundaries for each recognized heritage area are the boundaries
11 depicted on the map accompanying each proposal as approved by the Authority.

12 (2) After initial approval by the Authority of the boundaries of a recognized
13 heritage area, the Authority may amend or revise the boundaries:

14 (i) With the approval of all of the local jurisdictions where the
15 property to be added or removed is located; and

16 (ii) On publication in the Maryland Register of a revised drawing,
17 boundary description, or Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to a geographical information
18 system file.

19 (3) Boundary maps for each recognized heritage area shall be kept on file
20 at the Authority.

21 [(4) The Authority shall send a copy of each boundary map to the office of
22 the county clerk where the recognized heritage area is located.]

23 (e) Designation of a heritage area by the Authority as a recognized heritage area
24 establishes eligibility for [matching] grant assistance for the development of management
25 plans.

26 13-1112

27 (a) [(1)] The State officials under items [(i)] **(1)** through [(vii)] **(9)** of this
28 subsection who have program responsibilities that affect aspects of the interpretation,
29 preservation, development, and use of heritage area resources shall [prepare a program
30 statement detailing actions] **SUPPORT AND ASSIST ACTIVITIES IN CERTIFIED**
31 **HERITAGE AREAS** in the areas of planning, development, use, **IMPLEMENTATION**,

1 assistance, and regulation [that support and assist the establishment and management of
2 certified heritage areas], as follows:

3 [(i)] (1) Secretary of Planning regarding local government
4 adoption of heritage area management plans and regarding historic preservation and
5 museum programs;

6 [(ii)] (2) Secretary of Housing and Community Development
7 regarding housing and neighborhood revitalization;

8 [(iii)] (3) Secretary of Commerce regarding the State tourism
9 program and economic development and job creation activities;

10 [(iv)] (4) Secretary of Natural Resources regarding outdoor
11 recreation and the management of natural resources, including State greenways;

12 [(v)] (5) Secretary of Higher Education regarding educational
13 resources and their interpretation;

14 [(vi)] (6) Secretary of Transportation regarding access to and
15 transportation within certified heritage areas, including the scenic byways program and
16 programs for special signage; [and]

17 [(vii)] (7) Secretary of General Services regarding the management
18 and disposition of State property;

19 **(8) SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE REGARDING AGRICULTURAL
20 RESOURCES WITHIN CERTIFIED HERITAGE AREAS; AND**

21 **(9) STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REGARDING
22 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION WITHIN CERTIFIED
23 HERITAGE AREAS.**

24 [(2) The State officials shall submit the program statements required under
25 paragraph (1) of this subsection, and any revisions of the statements, to the Authority.]

26 (b) Units of State government that conduct or support **AND ASSIST** activities
27 affecting a certified heritage area shall:

28 (1) Consult, cooperate, and to the maximum extent feasible, coordinate
29 their activities with the unit or entity responsible for the management of each certified
30 heritage area;

8 13-1113.

14 (2) Grants to local jurisdictions or other appropriate entities to [develop]:

15 (I) DEVELOP management plans in recognized heritage areas; AND

18 (B) IN AWARDING A GRANT OR LOAN UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
19 SECTION, THE AUTHORITY MAY REQUIRE MATCHING FUNDS IN WHATEVER
20 PROPORTION THE AUTHORITY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.

21 [(b) A grant to develop a management plan may not exceed 50% of the cost of the
22 management plan.]

23 (c) An acquisition or development grant:

24 (1) May not be used for any purpose other than implementation of the
25 certified heritage area in conformity with the approved management plan; and

26 (2) May not exceed 50% of the total project cost for which the grant is
27 awarded.

28 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Authority may make
29 program grants to local jurisdictions and other appropriate entities:

30 (i) To develop and present interpretive exhibits, materials or other
31 appropriate products to further the educational and recreational objectives of the certified
32 heritage areas program; and

(ii) To encourage revitalization of, and reinvestment in, certified heritage area resources.

5 [(e)] (c) Through the resources of the members of the Authority and in
6 cooperation with other State agencies, the Authority shall provide technical assistance to
7 management entities implementing a management plan.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the term of the initial member
9 of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority who is a member of the public with significant
10 education or experience in natural resource stewardship or climate resiliency under §
11 13–1104 of the Financial Institutions Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall serve
12 the remainder of the term of the public member of the Maryland Greenways Commission
13 until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2026.