



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 899 – Illegal Dumping and Litter Control-Criminal Penalties and Fund

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources offers the following information on House Bill 899.

The bill would establish certain minimum fines for certain violations of the State's Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law. It would also establish the Clean Up and Green Up Fund ("Fund") under Section 3-210.1 of the Natural Resources Article, and require 50% of fines be paid into the Fund. The bill establishes the purpose of the Fund as providing grants to eligible community groups and non-profit organizations to assist with the costs associated with neighborhood cleanliness and beautification activities. Also, it requires the Fund to be administered by Maryland Environmental Trust (MET).

The bill would create a mechanism to provide additional funding for the existing Clean Up and Green Up Maryland Grant, which is one of the suite of grants offered under MET's Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants program. The purpose for the Clean Up and Green Up Maryland Grant is consistent with the stated purpose of the Fund to be established by this bill. It is not clear to MET what the added responsibility for administering the newly created Fund established by HB 899 would entail. It is difficult to determine at this time what the fiscal and operational impact will be for MET.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully submits to the Committee this information on House Bill 899.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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