



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 128

Short Title: Charles County – Program Open Space – Waldorf Core Zone

Department’s Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department’s Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on SB 128. Senate Bill 128 requires that all proposed acquisition and development projects submitted by Charles County under Program Open Space (POS) Local for FY 2023 - FY 2032 take place in the Waldorf Core Zone, as defined in the legislation.

Program Open Space Local provides financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions (counties and municipalities) for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas. DBM allocates POS Local funds annually to every County and Baltimore City according to a formula. Projects funded through POS Local are determined by local jurisdictions that submit applications for funding to DNR for review and approval. Those projects are developed in accordance with local land preservation and recreation plans and take a number of factors into consideration.

Senate Bill 128 would circumvent the process by prohibiting projects outside of the Waldorf Core Zone from FY 2023 - FY 2032 meaning that projects in other areas of the county would not be eligible for POS Local funding even if they met the requirements of the program and were identified as needed by the county.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.