



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

Bill Number: Senate Bill 96

Short Title: Community Parks and Playgrounds Program – Charles County – Basketball Courts

Department's Position: Letter of Information

Explanation of Department's Position

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on SB 96. Senate Bill 96 would alter the purpose of the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program to include making grants available to Charles County for the construction and maintenance of basketball courts at county parks with baseball fields.

The Community Parks and Playground Program, administered by DNR, provides flexible grants exclusively to municipal governments to respond to the need for assistance to rehabilitate, expand or improve existing parks, create new parks, develop environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects, or purchase and install playground equipment in older neighborhoods and intensely developed areas throughout the state. All of Maryland's 157 municipalities are eligible to apply for funding through this program. The FY 2022 budget includes \$5 million for 31 projects. Over the past 5 years, the department received an average of 75 applications annually requesting an average of \$9 million/year, funding an average of 23 projects/year totaling \$3.0 million/year.

As a complement to the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program, Program Open Space (POS) Local provides financial and technical assistance to every county and Baltimore City for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas including improvements to sports courts and fields. DBM allocates POS Local funds annually to every county and Baltimore City according to a formula. Projects funded through POS Local are determined by the counties and Baltimore City that submit applications for funding to the Department for review and submission to the Board of Public Works for approval. Counties also determine how much POS Local funding is used for projects in municipalities which varies by county and from year to year. The FY 2022 budget includes \$53.375 million in POS Local funds. Charles County's FY 2022 allocation was \$1.317 million and they have an additional \$1.775 million in unencumbered POS Local funds from prior fiscal years. Public basketball courts are an eligible use of POS Local funds.

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

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