



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 259

Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations

Date: January 24, 2024

To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

From: Matt Stegman

Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 259 which gives the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the flexibility to expend vitally-needed supplemental maintenance funds on an extended timeline and expands the allowable uses of the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to include the promotion of outdoor environmental education.

For over 50 years, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has led outdoor education programs for students, teachers, citizens, and community leaders because the best way to learn about the importance of the Chesapeake Bay as a natural resource is to be on it. Likewise, the best way to ensure that students and the general public can act as stewards and defenders of Maryland's natural resources is to provide educational opportunities that connect people to the outdoors. At present, DNR does not have a dedicated fund available to support outdoor education within Maryland.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 259.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.