

BILL: **Senate Bill 259**
Natural Resources-Maryland State Parks-Funds and Plan Alterations

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

DATE: January 24, 2024

POSITION: Support

Upon review of Senate Bill 259 - Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

The Park System Critical Maintenance Fund is used for State projects on lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources and are for public benefit and use by promoting outdoor environmental education in Maryland and addressing state park maintenance needs. The Great Maryland Outdoors Act, Chapter 39 of 2022, provided an additional \$70 million to address state park maintenance needs. These funds and the work they enable will positively impact the outdoor recreation industry across the state by updating infrastructure in and around recreation amenities. Passage of Senate Bill 259 will extend the date by which the funds must be spent from to July 1, 2029.

DGS supports passage of Senate Bill 259 and encourages a favorable report.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov or 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov or 410-260-2922.