



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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January 31, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 117 - First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Maryland Geological Survey Fund – Establishment**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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The Department supports this legislation to provide additional flexibility and transparency to the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) as it does not have a non-lapsing special fund account. This special fund will not have a dedicated revenue stream; but rather, the intent of the Department is to capitalize on revenue received from work the MGS does to provide better opportunities for long term planning and budgeting for the MGS.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Maryland Geological Survey routinely is funded through various outside contracts including counties, Baltimore City, non-profit organizations such as American Rivers, and private industry such as Battelle and WSSC. These special funds currently flow through a special fund account which is not in statute, is lapsing at the end of the fiscal year, and does not bear interest. The contracts, at times, run for several years, do not align with the State Fiscal year, and utilize equipment and supplies that depreciate over time. The establishment of this fund would allow these special funds to be properly managed and clearly documented in how the funds are utilized.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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This bill would establish a non-lapsing, interest bearing special fund for the Maryland Geological Survey.

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