



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

February 4, 2025

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 684

SHORT TITLE: State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Alteration and Extension

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

HB 684 extends the State Lakes Protection and Restoration fund through FY27; however, the legislation also alters the fund to apply solely to Deep Creek Lake.

Since this fund's inception, the Department has used these funds for various purposes at State lakes throughout the State – including habitat improvement projects at Rocky Gap Lake, Blairs Valley Lake, Hunting Creek Lake, and dredging at Urieville Lake.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State Lakes Protection and Restoration fund is designed to fund projects on 16 defined State Lakes throughout the State of Maryland. Projects include sediment control, dredging, aquatic invasive plant control, submerged aquatic vegetation planting, shoreline erosion control, and many others. These projects have been performed on these identified lakes beginning in 2019 with existing plans in place through FY25 and FY26. As the largest lake in Maryland, Deep Creek Lake has historically been the largest recipient and beneficiary of these annual funds at over 50% of the funds directed to Deep Creek Lake. Additionally, a special \$2.2M addition through the State Lakes fund went directly to Deep Creek Lake for dredging Arrowhead Cove.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill extends the authority of the State Lakes Protection and Restoration fund through and including FY27, adds \$1M to the FY27 budget to support the fund, and alters the fund from supporting all 16 identified state lakes to just one lake, Deep Creek Lake. Additionally, the bill takes effect June 1, 2025.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)