



SUPPORT SB0980 & HB1327

Unlock Maryland's Potential: Lift the Cap on Heritage Area Funding

SB0980 & HB1327 Would Lift the Funding Cap On Maryland's Heritage Areas

Proposed legislation would allow the Maryland Heritage Areas Program to receive up to \$12 million annually, lifting the current cap of \$6 million. The legislation **does not guarantee funding** but allows for this important program to receive a greater share of Program Open Space funding from the state's transfer tax, should it become available.

A Smart Investment with Big Returns

Maryland's 13 Heritage Areas fuel our economy, attracting visitors whose dollars support jobs, businesses, and tax growth in communities across our state.



\$2.4 billion pumped into Maryland's economy annually



\$319.8 million in state and local tax revenue



40,000 jobs supported, from museum staff to trail builders to festival organizers

Right now, this vital program is running on fumes.

Funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program is currently capped at \$6 million annually.



Over the last three years, an \$8 million gap has stalled high-impact projects.



Capital, Management, and Project grants to heritage areas haven't increased in 30 years—worth just 62 cents on the dollar today.



Meanwhile, the workload has tripled as demand for heritage tourism grows.

With additional investment, we can:



Fully fund community-driven projects that grow local economies (62% of money spent in a community stays in the community).



Prepare to celebrate America's 250th (2026) and Maryland's 400th (2034) anniversaries.



Ensure every voice is heard and every story is told—from the mountains of Western Maryland to the shores of the Chesapeake.

Maryland has 13 certified Heritage Areas, **covering a portion of every county in the state** and the City of Baltimore. Created in 1996, the Heritage Areas Program is one of the primary tools used to encourage heritage tourism to Maryland.

INVEST IN MARYLAND'S HERITAGE. INVEST IN MARYLAND'S FUTURE.