



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

February 11, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 290 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT(S)

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports the passage of SB 290 with amendments and is collaborating with the bill’s sponsor to incorporate language that exempts State and local governments, public service companies, and blanket permit holders from the notification requirement.

Additionally, the Department is dedicated to updating the Roadside Tree Permit database and will launch a dashboard on the DNR website to allow the public to track the status of roadside tree permit applications.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Maryland Roadside Tree Law was passed in 1914 to protect roadside trees and ensure they are compatible with public utilities. The law requires permits for planting, pruning, or removing roadside trees. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service enforces the law.

BILL EXPLANATION

SB290/HB362 stipulates certain conditions that must be met by certain applicants for an individual Roadside Tree Permit before a tree in a public right-of-way may be removed. The language requires the applicant to provide a notice of the application to all owners of property abutting or adjacent to the property subject to the application or the governing body of any common ownership community that has control over the land on which the tree to be removed is located. The Bill stipulates that the notification must be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.

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