



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

March 4, 2025

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 781 – First Reader**

SHORT TITLE: **Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans’ Care**

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

This bill requires the Department to participate in and staff a new task force to develop a state park dedicated to veteran’s care. The Department currently works with a state Parks and Recreation Commission to advise the Department on several important policy and operational issues facing state parks. In addition, it is unclear from the bill language who would oversee the veteran’s care, for which the Department does not have expertise, directed in the bill proposal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department oversees and staffs dozens of advisory bodies – including commissions, advisory councils, task forces and many sub-entities of these groups. The Great Maryland Outdoors Act (SB 541) of the 2022 General Assembly, adopted a number of important provisions related to Maryland State Parks and public lands. Included in the bill was a requirement to create a new Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission includes more than a dozen members, with at least four appointees from the Maryland legislature.

BILL EXPLANATION

SB 781 requires the Department to establish a task force to study the creation of a Veteran’s care state park.