



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1163 Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds – Established

Position: Support with Amendments

Date: March 10, 2025

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC” or the “Commission”) has voted to support this bill with amendments. Staff have provided recommendations to add the Commission as a taskforce member.

What this Bill Does. This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds.

M-NCPPC’s Mission under Parks and Recreation. The mission of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with County residents, is to provide comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities, and services that support healthy lifestyles and respond to changing needs within County communities. Our departments strive to preserve, enhance, and protect open spaces to enrich the quality of life for the present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.

Safety Intervention. The Commission supports the goal of this bill to reduce the risk of downing and other water related accidents. Therefore, in addition to fencing we encourage the taskforce to also consider other safety features and or interventions in an effort to prevent injuries and fatalities.

Valuable Taskforce Members. The Commission has requested that the sponsor add both our parks department to the taskforce membership list. We believe our participation will add value to the membership as we own and operate playgrounds and parkland in both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties.

- **Proposed Language:** *“The Director of the Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation or the director’s designee; and The Director of the Montgomery County Parks Department or the director’s designee.”*

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote with amendments in support of HB 1163.