

HB0420/733222/1

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 420

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**and Vogel**” and substitute “**Vogel, Addison, Allen, Foley, and Healey**”; in line 2, strike “**Communication Boards**” and substitute “**Recreation Communication Boards Pilot Program**”; in line 5, after “areas” insert “under certain circumstances”; in line 7, strike “providing for the funding of communication board construction” and substitute “establishing the Maryland Recreation Communication Boards Pilot Program, subject to the availability of funding; altering the purpose and use of the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund”; after line 8, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-221(a), (c), (g), and (n)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)”;

in line 11, after “Section” insert “5-221(b) and”; in line 16, strike “5-2101 through 5-2103” and substitute “5-2B-01 through 5-2B-03”; and in the same line, strike “21.” and substitute “2B.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 22, insert:

“5-221.

(a) (1) In this section[,] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

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(2) “Fund” means the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund.

(3) “MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-2B-03 OF THIS TITLE.

(b) There is a Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund.

(c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for:

(1) Completing State park projects related to capital improvements on lands managed by the Department for public purposes; [and]

(2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes as a State park; AND

(3) THE MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (N)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

(g) The Fund may be used only for:

(1) Completing State park projects related to capital improvements on lands managed by the Department for public purposes; [and]

(2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes as a State park; AND

(3) COVERING THE COSTS OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLING A COMMUNICATION BOARD UNDER THE MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM.

(n) If the Fund receives more than \$70,000,000, the Department may use up to \$10,000,000 for any of the purposes identified under subsection (l) of this section, including:

(1) Land activation;

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(2) New structures; [and]

(3) Any capital improvements necessary to make State parks accessible to people with disabilities, including providing adult changing tables; AND

(4) UP TO \$100,000 FOR THE MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM.”;

and strike beginning with line 23 on page 1 down through line 2 on page 2.

On page 2, in line 3, strike “**21.**” and substitute “**2B.**”; in line 4, strike “**5-2101.**” and substitute “**5-2B-01.**”; strike beginning with “**TO**” in line 12 down through “**COMMUNICATE**” in line 13 and substitute “**WITH WORDS AND BRAILLE TO SUPPLEMENT OR REPLACE SPOKEN LANGUAGE AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION**”; in line 16, after “**(E)**” insert “**“PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-2B-03 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**”

(F)”;

in line 18, strike “**(F)**” and substitute “**(G)**”; in line 22, strike “**5-2102.**” and substitute “**5-2B-02.**”; strike beginning with “**THE**” in line 26 down through “**AREAS**” in line 27 and substitute “**(1) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT**”; and after line 28, insert:

“(2) EACH LOCAL GOVERNING BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLAY AREAS THAT RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL CONSTRUCT AT LEAST ONE COMMUNICATION BOARD IN EACH NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PLAY AREA UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.”

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 5 through 17, inclusive, and substitute:

(Over)

“5-2B-03.

(A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND RECREATION COMMUNICATION BOARDS PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, IMPROVE PLAY AREA ACCESSIBILITY BY COVERING THE COSTS OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLING COMMUNICATION BOARDS AT STATE AND LOCAL PARKS.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) (1) A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A GRANT FROM THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AND IN AWARDING A GRANT TO A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD A GRANT EQUAL TO THE COST OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLING EACH COMMUNICATION BOARD.

(II) A GRANT MAY NOT EXCEED \$3,000 FOR EACH COMMUNICATION BOARD THAT IS PURCHASED AND INSTALLED.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE THE AWARD OF GRANTS TO A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY THAT IS INSTALLING A COMMUNICATION BOARD IN A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PLAY AREA.

(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT PROVIDES AN EVALUATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING A RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

5-901.

(a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(g) “Local governing body” means the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the governing body of any county or Baltimore City.”;

in line 19, strike “October” and substitute “July”; and in the same line, after “2024.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.