

HOUSE BILL 228

M1

(PRE-FILED)

4r0306
CF SB 259

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee and Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Requested: September 15, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Maryland State Parks – Funds and Plan Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of extending the date by which the Park System Critical Maintenance
4 Fund must be expended; authorizing the Park System Capital Improvements and
5 Acquisition Fund to be used for State projects on lands managed by the Department
6 of Natural Resources for public purposes; altering the allowable uses of funds for the
7 initial allocation to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund;
8 authorizing the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to be used for promoting outdoor
9 environmental education in the State; requiring the Department to report on certain
10 matters at each meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission; extending the
11 date by which the Department is required to develop and publish a Comprehensive
12 Long-Range Strategic Plan; and generally relating to the State park system.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – Natural Resources

15 Section 5-220(a) through (c) and (g), 5-221(a) and (b), ~~and~~ 5-222(a) and (b), and

16 5-2A-03(a)(1)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Natural Resources

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 5–220(k), 5–221(c), (g), (j), and (l), 5–222(c), (g), and (k), 5–2A–03(e), and
2 5–2A–05(a)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article – Natural Resources**

8 5–220.

9 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund.

10 (b) There is a Park System Critical Maintenance Fund.

11 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for completing State projects
12 that address critical maintenance concerns on lands managed by the Department for public
13 purposes.

14 (g) The Fund may be used only for State park projects that address critical
15 maintenance concerns on lands managed by the Department for public purposes.

16 (k) (1) For fiscal year 2024 only, the Governor shall include in the annual
17 budget bill a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$70,000,000 to the Fund for
18 State projects that address critical maintenance concerns on lands managed by the
19 Department for public purposes.

20 (2) The Department shall expend the funds allocated under this subsection
21 before July 1, ~~[2026]~~ **2029**.

22 5–221.

23 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Park System Capital Improvements and
24 Acquisition Fund.

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

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

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

29 (2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes
30 **[as a State park]**.

31 (g) The Fund may be used only for:

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

3 (2) Acquiring land to be managed by the Department for public purposes
4 [as a State park].

5 (j) Money expended from the Fund for capital improvements [in the State's
6 parks] **FOR STATE PROJECTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR
7 PUBLIC PURPOSES** ~~is supplemental~~ **IS:**

8 **(1) SUPPLEMENTAL** to and is not intended to take the place of funding
9 that otherwise would be appropriated for capital improvements [in the State's parks] **FOR
10 STATE PROJECTS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC
11 PURPOSES** and the acquisition of land by the Department that will be managed for public
12 purposes; **AND**

13 **(2) INTENDED TO:**

14 **(I) EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS ON LANDS MANAGED BY THE**
15 **DEPARTMENT; AND**

16 **(II) ALLEVIATE OVERCAPACITY WITHIN THE STATE PARK**
17 **SYSTEM.**

18 (l) The first \$70,000,000 received by the Fund may be used only as follows:

19 (1) **AT LEAST** \$5,000,000 for infrastructure projects that mitigate the
20 effects of climate change, including:

21 (i) Flood barriers;

22 (ii) Forest buffers;

23 (iii) Green spaces;

24 (iv) Building elevation;

25 (v) Stormwater infrastructure;

26 (vi) Wetlands restoration; and

27 (vii) Addressing environmental justice concerns;

28 (2) **AT LEAST** \$5,000,000 for historic preservation, in accordance with
29 subsection (m) of this section;

- 1 (3) **AT LEAST** \$20,000,000 for transportation improvements, including:
- 2 (i) Improving bike lanes and trails, increasing walkability, and
3 expanding parking availability; and
- 4 (ii) Targeting transportation investments to avoid capacity
5 shutdowns;
- 6 (4) **AT LEAST** \$10,000,000 for increasing water access, including kayak
7 and boat launches and areas for picnicking near water and swimming; and
- 8 (5) **UP TO** \$30,000,000 for land acquisition, including:
- 9 (i) Areas in the central and southern regions of the State that will:
- 10 1. Relieve overcrowding at existing State parks; and
- 11 2. Expand public access to State parks and outdoor
12 recreation;
- 13 (ii) Sites of significance to the history of African American, Asian,
14 Indigenous or Native American, and Hispanic or Latino populations in the State; and
- 15 (iii) Beachfront or waterfront property for public access.
- 16 5–222.
- 17 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund.
- 18 (b) There is a Great Maryland Outdoors Fund in the Department.
- 19 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to:
- 20 (1) Support the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Department;
- 21 (2) Provide resources to improve existing and create new outdoor
22 recreation **AND OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** opportunities; [and]
- 23 (3) Implement the recommendations of the Maryland Outdoor Recreation
24 Economic Commission to promote and grow the outdoor recreation sector in the State; **AND**
- 25 (4) **PROMOTE AND GROW OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN**
26 **THE STATE.**
- 27 (g) The Fund may be used only for:

1 (1) Implementing the recommendations of the Maryland Outdoor
2 Recreation Economic Commission[, including establishing and supporting an Office of
3 Outdoor Recreation in the Department];

4 (2) Department projects and programs that provide, promote, and enhance
5 outdoor recreation **OR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** opportunities in the
6 State; and

7 (3) Awarding grants to destination marketing organizations for the
8 purpose of promoting and marketing State parks.

9 (k) Money expended from the Fund for existing programs in the Department that
10 provide, promote, and enhance outdoor recreation **OR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL**
11 **EDUCATION** opportunities is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of
12 funding that otherwise would be appropriated for those programs.

13 5-2A-03.

14 (a) (1) There is a Parks and Recreation Commission in the Department.

15 (e) (1) The Commission shall meet quarterly to review the status of the Park
16 Service.

17 (2) AT EACH MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE
18 COMMISSION ON EXPENDITURES FROM THE PARK SYSTEM CAPITAL
19 IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION FUND.

20 5-2A-05.

21 (a) The Department shall:

22 (1) Develop and publish a Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan by
23 December 1, [2023] **2024**;

24 (2) Update the Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan every 5 years
25 to reflect major goals and progress toward meeting those goals; and

26 (3) Submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
27 State Government Article, the Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan and any updates
28 to the plan.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2024.