

HOUSE BILL 997

F1

4lr2373

By: **Delegates Wolek, Bartlett, Chang, Charkoudian, Feldmark, Palakovich Carr, Solomon, and Vogel**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Green Schools – Model Professional Development Facilities – Designation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with
4 the State Department of Education and in consultation with other relevant parties,
5 to establish criteria for designating green schools in the State as model professional
6 development facilities; requiring the Maryland Association of Environmental and
7 Outdoor Education to use a certain appropriation to update its recertification
8 application on or before a certain date; requiring the State Department of Education
9 to designate the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education to
10 determine whether a school meets the criteria established for the designation of a
11 model professional development facility; and generally relating to green schools.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–117.1

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **7–117.1.**

21 **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IN**
22 **COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**
23 **MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 OTHER RELEVANT PARTIES, SHALL ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING GREEN
2 SCHOOLS IN THE STATE AS MODEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES.

3 (2) THE CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING A GREEN SCHOOL AS A MODEL
4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY MAY INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF:

5 (I) A SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO
6 EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS ON HOW TO TRANSITION THEIR SCHOOL TO A GREEN
7 SCHOOL;

8 (II) A SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE WITH PROVIDING A BROAD SET OF
9 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS;

10 (III) THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS IN WHICH A SCHOOL
11 IS ENGAGED;

12 (IV) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS A SCHOOL ENGAGES WITH
13 WHEN CONDUCTING GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS;

14 (V) HOW GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY A
15 SCHOOL ALIGN WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS SET BY THE STATE; AND

16 (VI) THE PERCENTAGE OF A SCHOOL'S STAFF THAT IS ENGAGED
17 IN NATURE-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND THEIR RELEVANT EXPERTISE.

18 (B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE
19 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000 TO THE MARYLAND
20 ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION TO BE USED BY THE
21 ASSOCIATION TO UPDATE ITS RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE
22 SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, TO ALLOW APPLICANTS TO INDICATE THEIR INTEREST IN
23 OBTAINING A MODEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY DESIGNATION.

24 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE THE MARYLAND
25 ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION TO DETERMINE
26 WHETHER A SCHOOL MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
27 OF THIS SECTION TO OBTAIN A MODEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY
28 DESIGNATION.

29 (2) A MODEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY DESIGNATION
30 IS VALID FOR 1 YEAR.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2024.