

# SENATE BILL 329

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4r1921  
CF 4r1634

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By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Trust – Authority to Retain Outside Counsel**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the powers and duties of the Chesapeake Bay Trust by  
4 authorizing the Trust to retain outside counsel as necessary; and generally relating  
5 to the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 8–1901 and 8–1902  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Natural Resources  
13 Section 8–1906  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 8–1901.

20 (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (b) “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

22 (c) “Trust” means the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8–1902.

2 There is a Chesapeake Bay Trust established to promote public awareness and  
3 participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land  
4 resources of the Chesapeake Bay and other aquatic and land resources of the State.

5 8–1906.

6 The Trust shall have the powers and duties to:

7 (1) Solicit and accept any gift, grant, legacy, or endowment of money from  
8 the federal government, State government, local government, or any private source in  
9 furtherance of the Trust;

10 (2) Provide grants to nonprofit organizations, community associations,  
11 civic groups, schools, or public agencies for citizen involvement projects;

12 (3) Develop projects for sponsorship by corporate and business  
13 organizations or private individuals;

14 (4) Develop criteria for citizen involvement projects or corporate  
15 sponsorship projects;

16 (5) Make, execute, and enter into any contract or other legal instrument;

17 (6) Receive appropriations as provided in the State budget;

18 (7) Lease and maintain an office at a place within the State the Trust  
19 designates;

20 (8) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its  
21 business;

22 (9) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of the Trust;

23 (10) Sue and be sued, but only to enforce contractual or similar agreements  
24 with the Trust; [and]

25 (11) **RETAIN OUTSIDE COUNSEL AS NECESSARY; AND**

26 **(12)** Report annually to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State  
27 Government Article, to the General Assembly, its activities during the preceding year  
28 together with any recommendations or requests deemed appropriate to further the  
29 purposes of the Trust.

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