

## Chapter 389

**(Senate Bill 862)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Park Service – Operations Revenue – Mandated Appropriation**

FOR the purpose of ratifying a certain provision of law that requires the Governor to include in the State budget an appropriation for the Maryland Park Service equal to a certain percentage of revenues attributable to Maryland Park Service operations; requiring the budgeting of certain appropriations to be done after certain administrative costs are allocated; stating the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to funding of the Maryland Park Service.

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,  
 Article – Natural Resources  
 Section 5–212(g)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

5–212.

(g) (1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Fund may be used only for:

(i) 1. Purchasing and managing in the name of the State lands suitable for forest culture, reserves, watershed protection, State parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments, parkways, and State recreational reserves; and

2. Helping to offset the costs to the Forest and Park Service for developing and implementing a forest health emergency contingency program under § 5–307 of this title;

(ii) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, payments to counties in the amount of:

1. If the State forest or park reserve comprises less than 10% of the total land area of the county, a sum equal to 15% of the revenue derived from the State forest or park reserve located in that county; and

2. If the State forest or park reserve comprises 10% or more of the total land area of the county, a sum equal to 25% of the revenue derived from the State forest or park reserve located in that county; and

(iii) Administrative costs calculated in accordance with § 1-103(b)(2) of this article.

(2) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013 only, the payments under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection shall be based only on the revenue derived from sales of timber.

(3) From revenues described in subsection (f) of this section that are attributable to Maryland Park Service operations, **LESS ANY AMOUNT OF THOSE REVENUES ALLOCATED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, the Governor shall include in the State budget an appropriation for the Maryland Park Service equal to:

(i) At least 60% of the **REMAINING** revenues, for fiscal year 2016;

(ii) At least 80% of the **REMAINING** revenues, for fiscal year 2017;  
and

(iii) 100% of the **REMAINING** revenues, for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly in enacting this Act to ratify the amendments to § 5-212(g) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Chapter 464 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014, *as amended by this Act*.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**