

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0258
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett, McCray, Bullock, Middleton, Conway, Cohen,
Torrence

Introduced and read first time: August 15, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Charter Amendment – Forest Preservation Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a continuing, nonlapsing Forest Preservation Fund, to be used
4 exclusively to fund and administer activities related to forest management, including natural
5 area preservation and restoration, wildlife management, maintenance of paths in forests and
6 natural areas, and tree maintenance; providing for certain modes of appropriation to the Fund;
7 authorizing the Mayor and City Council, by Ordinance, to provide for the oversight,
8 governance, and administration of the Fund; and submitting this amendment to the qualified
9 voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

10 BY proposing to add

11 Article 1 - General Provisions
12 Section 17
13 Baltimore City Charter
14 (1996 Edition)

15 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
16 City Charter is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

17 **Baltimore City Charter**

18 **Article 1. General Provisions**

19 **§ 17. FOREST PRESERVATION FUND.**

20 (A) *AUTHORIZATION.*

21 (1) BY ORDINANCE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE MAY ESTABLISH A
22 CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND FOR PURPOSES OF SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES RELATED
23 TO THE MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE CITY’S FORESTS AND NATURAL
24 AREAS.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 22-0258

1 (2) THESE PURPOSES INCLUDE FUNDING, ADMINISTERING, SUPPORTING, AND AUGMENTING
2 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO:

3 (I) MANAGE, PRESERVE, AND RESTORE FORESTS AND NATURAL AREAS IN THE
4 CITY;

5 (II) MANAGE WILDLIFE;

6 (III) MAINTAIN NATURAL PATHS IN FORESTED AND NATURAL AREAS IN THE CITY;
7 AND

8 (IV) MAINTAIN TREES IN FORESTS AND NATURAL AREAS IN THE CITY.

9 (B) *REVENUE SOURCES.*

10 THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY CONSIST OF:

11 (1) A MANDATORY ANNUAL APPROPRIATION IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES OF AN
12 AMOUNT EQUAL TO 3% OF ANY REVENUES GENERATED BY THE CITY'S TAX ON
13 ENERGY DELIVERED THROUGH PIPES, WIRES, OR CONDUITS;

14 (2) GRANTS OR DONATIONS MADE TO THE FUND; AND

15 (3) PROCEEDS FROM FINES, FEES, SURCHARGES, OR OTHER REVENUES DEDICATED TO
16 THE FUND BY ORDINANCE.

17 (C) *CONTINUING NATURE OF FUND.*

18 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CHARTER, UNSPENT PORTIONS OF THE
19 FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION:

20 (1) REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THEIR ORDAINED PURPOSES;

21 (2) DO NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL REVENUES OF THE CITY; AND

22 (3) THEIR APPROPRIATIONS DO NOT LAPSE.

23 (D) *IMPLEMENTATION.*

24 BY ORDINANCE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE OVERSIGHT,
25 GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOREST PRESERVATION FUND, INCLUDING:

26 (1) METHODS AND CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
27 ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING BY THE FUND;

28 (2) METHODS AND CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING AVAILABLE FUNDS AMONG ELIGIBLE
29 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND

Council Bill 22-0258

1 (3) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY OTHER LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES,
2 REGULATIONS, OR STANDARDS, CONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION, GOVERNING THE
3 FUND, ITS OPERATIONS, AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FUNDED BY IT.

4 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this proposed amendment to the City
5 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection,
6 in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the
7 City Solicitor.