

FISCAL NOTE

May 10, 2022

Bill No:	SB 525	Printer's No:	919	Sponsor:	Gordner
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2021-22	2022-23
Environmental Stewardship Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: SB 525 establishes Growing Green III.

ANALYSIS: SB 525 amends Title 27 (Environmental Resources) to appropriate \$500 million to the Environmental Stewardship Fund from money received from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

- 45 percent shall be allocated to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which shall use 20 percent for grants for local governments and conservation districts, five percent for land trust projects, and 20 percent for projects located within the watershed of the Susquehanna River.
- 40 percent shall be allocated to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which shall use at least 40 percent of this funding for projects within the watershed of the Susquehanna River.
- 15 percent shall be allocated to the Department of Agriculture (PDA) which shall use at least 30 percent for grants to preserve farmland and at least 50 percent for projects within the watershed of the Susquehanna River.

The bill further stipulates that DCNR shall use the funding it receives to provide grants to make connections between trails, access to riverfronts, conservation of riparian buffers, heritage areas, and other conservation and recreation purposes. DEP shall use the money it receives from the fund for abandoned mine cleanup efforts and to provide grants for mine land cleanup, nonpoint source pollution for drinking water, abandoned industrial sites cleanup, floodplain management, Chesapeake Bay cleanup, and funding to county conservation districts to assist farmers in protecting local water quality and improving the soil. PDA shall use funds for counties to preserve farmland and for grants to preserve farmland.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT: SB 525 amends Title 27 (Environmental Resources) to appropriate \$500 million to the Environmental Stewardship Fund from money received from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The money is allocated as follows:

Department of Environmental Protection	45%(\$225 Million)
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	40% (\$200 Million)
Department of Agriculture	15% (\$75 Million)