

CHAPTER 606
(House Bill 739)

AN ACT to add new Sections 357B through 357G, inclusive, to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", subtitle "Forests and Parks", to follow immediately after Section 357A thereof and to be under the new subheading "Program Open Space", and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 5 of Chapter 403 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1969, as amended by Chapter 4 of the Acts of the Special Session of December 16, 1969, to clarify the purposes and objects of the Open Space Program adopted by the General Assembly in 1969, to establish a ~~statutory~~ CODIFIED authorization for the acquisition of land for, and development of, areas by the State and its political subdivisions for outdoor public recreation and open space use, and to establish criteria for such areas and the application for and use of funds available for this purpose, and to provide for the effect of this statutory authorization on projects for which funds are allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Land Loan of 1969 AND RELATING GENERALLY TO PROGRAM OPEN SPACE.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 357B through 357G, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", sub-title "Forests and Parks", to follow immediately after Section 357A thereof and to be under the new subheading "Program Open Space", and to read as follows:

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE

357B.

(a) *The General Assembly hereby declares there is a need for a program to make funds available to State agencies and subdivisions in order: (1) to expedite the acquisition of outdoor recreation and open space areas before the escalating cost of land prevents its purchase for public use and before potential areas are devoted to some other use; and (2) to accelerate the development of needed outdoor recreation facilities.*

(b) *This program is known as Program Open Space and carries out the recommendations of the 1968 Legislative Council Committee on Recreational Areas. It is the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of Program Open Space to provide funds to the State and its political subdivisions to enable the State and the subdivisions to acquire lands for outdoor public recreation and open space use and to develop such lands for the recreation use of the public.*

(c) *In effectuating the purposes of this section, the General Assembly has established a funding program pursuant to Chapter 403 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1969, as amended from time to time.*