

There is a Waterway Improvement Fund for the purposes specified in this subtitle. Except as provided in § 8-709, any money received into the Waterway Improvement Fund shall be used solely for the following projects:

(1) Marking channels and harbors, and establishing aids to navigation in cooperation with and as an extension of operations of the United States Coast Guard;

(2) Clearing debris, aquatic vegetation, and obstruction from waters of the State;

(3) Dredging channels and harbors and construction of jetties and breakwaters in cooperation with and as an extension of operations of the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

(4) Constructing marine facilities beneficial to the boating public;

(5) Improvement, reconstruction, or removal of bridges, drawbridges, or similar structures over or across waters, if those structures delay, impede, or obstruct the boating public. With the approval of the Board of Public Works, funds from another public or any private source may be received and used to supplement and increase the funds in the Waterway Improvement Fund for the purpose of this subsection. Also, the Board of Public Works may enter into an agreement with a private company or person which owns such a structure, for the improvement, reconstruction, or removal of the structure, in order to provide a sharing of the cost of the improvement, reconstruction, or removal;

(6) Evaluation of water-oriented recreation needs and recreational capacities of Maryland waterways, and development of comprehensive plans for waterway improvements; [and]

(7) To provide matching grants to local governments for the construction of marine facilities for marine firefighting, marine police or medical services, and for the acquisition of vessels, and equipment for vessels for marine firefighting, police, medical, and communication equipment for promoting safety of life and property and general service to the boating public utilizing the waters of the State. The ownership, operation, and maintenance of any equipment acquired under this subtitle shall be the responsibility of the local governing body; AND

(8) TO PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO ANY A GOVERNING BODY FOR THE BENEFIT OF A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNER, OR GROUP OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS, WITH LAND ABUTTING A CHANNEL ADJACENT TO A MAIN CHANNEL OR HARBOR, WHOSE PROPERTY HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN A WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BY THE GOVERNING BODY, FOR DREDGING THE ADJACENT CHANNEL.