M1, C5 5lr2075 CF 5lr2076

By: Senator Ready

AN ACT concerning

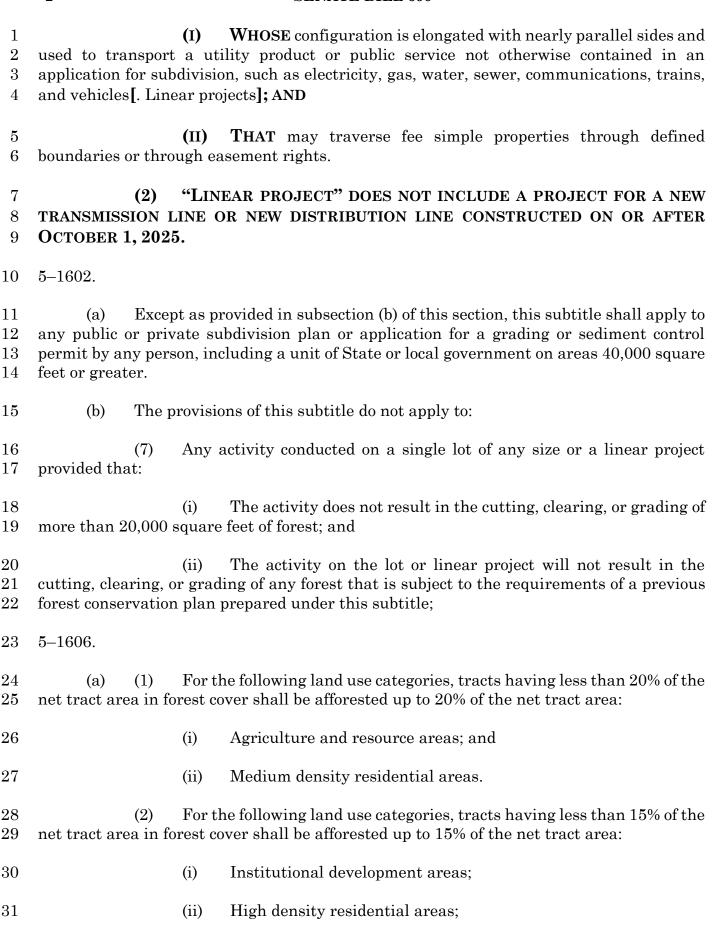
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

## A BILL ENTITLED

2	Forest Conservation Act - Linear Projects - Alteration
3 4 5	FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "linear project" under the Forest Conservation Act to exclude a project for a new transmission line or new distribution line constructed on or after a certain date; and generally relating to tree removal and
6	replacement by electric companies.
7	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8	Article – Natural Resources
9	Section 5–1601(a), 5–1602(a) and (b)(7), and 5–1606(a)
0	Annotated Code of Maryland
1	(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
2	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

- Article Natural Resources 13
- Section 5–1601(u) 14
- Annotated Code of Maryland 15
- 16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- Article Natural Resources 19
- 20 5-1601.
- 21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- "Linear project" means a project [whose]: 22 (u) **(1)**





1	(iii) Mixed use and planned unit development areas; and
2	(iv) Commercial and industrial use areas.
3 4 5	(3) Afforestation requirements must conform to the conditions in §§ 5–1607 and 5–1610 of this subtitle, including payment into the Forest Conservation Fund, if afforestation on–site or off–site cannot be reasonably accomplished.
6 7 8	(4) (i) The afforestation requirements under this subsection shall be accomplished within 1 year or 2 growing seasons after the completion of the development project.
9 10 11 12	(ii) If afforestation cannot be reasonably accomplished on–site or off–site, the requirement to contribute money to a Forest Conservation Fund under § 5–1610 of this subtitle shall be met within 90 days after the completion of the development project.
13 14	(5) Linear projects that involve no change in land use may not be subject to afforestation requirements.
15 16	(6) Solar photovoltaic facilities may not be subject to afforestation requirements under this subtitle.
17	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

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October 1, 2025.