

Chapter 99

(Senate Bill 551)

AN ACT concerning

~~Education — Service Year Option Program — Establishment~~
Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program
Service Year Option Pathways – Established
 (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)

FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Service Year Option Program; requiring the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to administer and provide staff for the Program; requiring a Program participant to work at least a certain number of hours per week and partner with an on-site mentor while working in a service placement; requiring a participating employer to pay a Program participant a certain wage; authorizing the Department to disburse a stipend of up to a certain amount to a Program participant who completes a service placement; requiring a Program participant to perform certain duties and participate in certain training and activities as part of a service placement; establishing the Service Year Option Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Department to procure the services of a third-party entity to conduct an independent study and assessment of the Program and submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to publish an online dashboard of key performance indicators shown in the report; Department of Service and Civic Innovation; providing for the purpose, duties, administration, and staffing of the Department; establishing the Secretary of Service and Civic Innovation and the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary; altering the provisions of the Maryland Corps Program, including requiring the Department to administer the Program, renaming the Board of Directors of the Maryland Corps Program to be the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board, establishing the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway and the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway as two pathways under the Program, renaming the Maryland Corps Program Fund to be the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway Fund, and specifying the purposes, use, administration, and contents of the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway Fund; establishing the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway Fund; providing for the purposes, use, administration, and contents of the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway Fund; providing for the expiration of the terms of the initial members of the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board; and generally relating to the establishment of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation and the Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option ~~Program~~ Pathways.~~

BY adding to

Article — Education

Section 24-11A-01 through 24-11A-07 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11A- Service Year Option Program”

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2022 Replacement Volume)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 15–106.9

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume)

(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY repealing

Article – State Government

Section 9–2801 through 9–2808, the part “Part I. General Provisions”, and the subtitle “Subtitle 28. Department of Service and Civic Innovation”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY renumbering

Article – State Government

Section 9–2811 through 9–2820 and the part “Part II. Maryland Corps Program” and 9–2823 through 9–2828 and the part “Part III. Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism”

to be Section 21–201 through 21–210 and the new subtitle “Subtitle 2. Maryland Corps Program” and 21–301 through 21–306 and the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism”, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY repealing

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)92.

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY renumbering

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)93. through 171.

to be Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)92. through 170., respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 8–201

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY adding to

Article – State Government
Section 21–101 through 21–107 to be under the new title “Title 21. Department of
Service and Civic Innovation” and the new subtitle “Subtitle 1. General
Provisions”; and 21–206 through 21–210
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 21–201 through 21–203, 21–205, and 21–207 through 21–210
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
(As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

BY repealing

Article – State Government
Section 21–204 and 21–206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
(As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement
 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement
 Section ~~6–226(a)(2)(ii)170. and 171.~~ 6–226(a)(2)(ii)169. and 170.
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
(As enacted by Section 5 of this Act)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement
 Section ~~6–226(a)(2)(ii)172. and 173.~~ 6–226(a)(2)(ii)171. and 172.
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 9–2801 through 9–2808, the part “Part I. General Provisions”, and the subtitle “Subtitle 28. Department of Service and Civic Innovation” of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 9–2811 through 9–2820 and the part “Part II. Maryland Corps Program” of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 21–201 through 21–210, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 2. Maryland Corps Program”.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 9–2823 through 9–2828 and the part “Part III. Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism” of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 21–301 through 21–306, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 3. Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism”.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 6–226(a)(2)(ii)92 of Article – State Finance and Procurement of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 6–226(a)(2)(ii)93 through 171 of Article – State Finance and Procurement of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 6–226(a)(2)(ii)92 through 170, respectively.

SECTION ~~1~~ ~~4~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED ~~BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND~~, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

15–106.9.

(a) In this section, “residency requirement” means the requirement of a public senior higher education institution that a student has resided in the State for 12 consecutive months to be considered a resident and receive in–State tuition status.

(b) For in–State tuition purposes, a public senior higher education institution shall waive the in–State residency requirement for an individual who has completed:

(1) All service hours for an AmeriCorps Program in the State; or

(2) A service program under the Maryland Corps Program under [Title 9, Subtitle 28] **TITLE 21, SUBTITLE 2** of the State Government Article.

(c) A student is responsible for the difference between in–State and out–of–state tuition if the student does not retain residence in the State for the remainder of the school year for which in–State tuition was received.

Article – State Government

8–201.

(a) The Executive Branch of the State government shall have not more than 21 principal departments, each of which shall embrace a broad, functional area of that Branch.

(b) The principal departments of the Executive Branch of the State government are:

- (1) Aging;
- (2) Agriculture;
- (3) Budget and Management;
- (4) Commerce;
- (5) Disabilities;
- (6) Emergency Management;
- (7) the Environment;
- (8) General Services;
- (9) Health;
- (10) Housing and Community Development;
- (11) Human Services;
- (12) Information Technology;
- (13) Juvenile Services;
- (14) Labor;
- (15) Natural Resources;
- (16) Planning;
- (17) Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- (18) **SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION;**

[(18)] (19) State Police;

[(19)] (20) Transportation; and

[(20)] (21) Veterans Affairs.

TITLE 21. DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.

SUBTITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

21-101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.

(C) “SECRETARY” MEANS THE SECRETARY OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.

21-102.

(A) THERE IS A DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION, ESTABLISHED AS A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROMOTE SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE STATE.

21-103.

(A) (1) THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT IS THE SECRETARY OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE I, § 9 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

(B) THE SECRETARY IS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

(C) (1) THE SECRETARY SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR AND IS RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE GOVERNOR'S POLICIES ON THESE MATTERS.

(D) (1) THE SECRETARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE THE ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH, REORGANIZE, OR ABOLISH AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DEPARTMENT AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE DUTIES ASSIGNED TO THE SECRETARY.

(E) THE SECRETARY IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

21-104.

(A) THE SECRETARY MAY EMPLOY A STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(B) THE SECRETARY MAY APPOINT A DEPUTY SECRETARY AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND CONTRACT WITH CONSULTANTS AS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.

(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE ALL STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.

21-105.

(A) THE SECRETARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND THE BUDGET FOR EACH UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF LAW THAT ARE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE SECRETARY MAY CREATE ANY ADVISORY COUNCIL THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS NECESSARY AND ASSIGN APPROPRIATE FUNCTIONS TO IT.

(D) THE SECRETARY SHALL HAVE A SEAL.

(E) (1) THE SECRETARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COORDINATION AND DIRECTION OF ALL PLANNING THAT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY INITIATES.

(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL KEEP FULLY APPRISED OF PLANS, PROPOSALS, AND PROJECTS OF EACH UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT AND, EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED OTHERWISE, MAY APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, OR MODIFY ANY OF THEM.

(F) EACH UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY AS PROVIDED IN THE RULES, REGULATIONS, OR WRITTEN DIRECTIVES THAT THE SECRETARY ADOPTS.

(G) THE SECRETARY MAY APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND SPEND GRANTS-IN-AID BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OR THE DEPARTMENT.

(H) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW AND §§ 21-205(G) AND 21-206(E) OF THIS TITLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL PAY ALL MONEY COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS TITLE INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

(I) THE SECRETARY SHALL CARRY OUT AND ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE, THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW THAT RELATE TO THE SECRETARY OR THE DEPARTMENT.

21-106.

(A) THE SECRETARY SHALL:

(1) PROMOTE SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE STATE BY PARTNERING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO FULFILL THE PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE; AND

(2) IDENTIFY, DEVELOP, AND IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES TO INCREASE SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE STATE TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) PROMOTE THE USE OF VOLUNTEERS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

(2) COORDINATE AND OVERSEE THE ACTIVITIES OF:

(I) THE MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM UNDER SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(II) THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM;

(3) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MODEL PROGRAMS FOR A STATEWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE, SKILL BANKS, OR INFORMATION CENTERS FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PROJECTS IN THE STATE;

(4) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS IN STATE PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION EVENTS IN NONPUBLIC PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY AND STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS;

(5) ADMINISTER:

(I) THE MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM UNDER SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS TITLE;

(II) THE EXECUTIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM UNDER § 21-306 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(III) ANY OTHER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECOMMENDED OR DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR OR OTHERWISE ESTABLISHED BY LAW;

(6) LIAISE WITH NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERISM GROUPS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE RESOURCES THAT MAY ENHANCE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS WITHIN THE STATE;

(7) CONDUCT STUDIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING, VOLUNTEER RETENTION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS; AND

(8) PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER COUNCIL.

21-107.

(A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS LEGAL ADVISER TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ASSIGN TO THE DEPARTMENT THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO BE ASSIGNED

TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECTIVE LEGAL ADVICE AND COUNSEL.

(C) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO SHALL DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AS COUNSEL TO THE DEPARTMENT.

Subtitle 2. Maryland Corps Program.

21-201.

(a) In this [part] SUBTITLE the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “ADVISORY Board” means the MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM ADVISORY Board [of Directors of the Program].

(c) “Corps participant” means an individual who participates in the Program.

(D) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.

(E) “MSY PATHWAY” MEANS THE MARYLAND SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY.

[(d)] (F) “MSY PATHWAY Fund” means the Maryland [Corps Program] SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY Fund.

[(e)] (G) “Participating organization” means a BUSINESS, nonprofit organization, or government agency that:

(1) has a focus on community or other service, service learning, volunteerism, or other activities or experiences with a similar mission;

(2) hosts a program participant in a service role; and

(3) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and Title 20, Subtitle 6 of this article.

[(f)] (H) “Program” means the Maryland Corps Program.

[(g)] (I) “Wraparound services” includes:

(1) child care;

(2) transportation;

- (3) housing;
- (4) [mental] BEHAVIORAL health;
- (5) crisis intervention;
- (6) substance abuse prevention or treatment;
- (7) legal aid;
- (8) financial literacy programming;
- (9) job search and application support; and
- (10) college application support.

(J) “YA PATHWAY” MEANS THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY.

(K) “YA PATHWAY FUND” MEANS THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY FUND.

21-202.

(a) **(1) There is a Maryland Corps Program in the State administered and managed by the [Board] DEPARTMENT.**

(2) THE PROGRAM HAS TWO PATHWAYS:

(I) THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY; AND

(II) THE MARYLAND SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY.

(b) **[(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program is exempt from Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.**

(2)] The Program is subject to Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to:

(1) provide meaningful service opportunities to CORPS participants that will address the social needs of the community;

(2) equip corps participants with the skills that will enable them to successfully make the transition from high school to an institution of higher education or to the workforce; and

(3) provide [scholarships] **PROGRAM COMPLETION AWARDS** to corps participants who have completed the Program [to be used at institutions of higher education toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, or bachelor's degrees].

(d) The Program is subject to review under § 2-1220 of this article.

21-203.

(a) [(1) A Board of Directors shall administer and manage the Program.

(2) The Board is a body politic and corporate and is an instrumentality of the State.

(b) [(1) **THERE IS A MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD.**

(2) The **ADVISORY** Board consists of the following members:

[(1)] (I) a Board Chair, [jointly] appointed by the [President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House] **GOVERNOR;**

[(2)] (II) two members jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

[(i)] 1. one of whom must represent a service organization in the State; and

[(ii)] 2. one of whom shall be:

[1.] A. a current participant in a public service program; or

[2.] B. a former participant in a public service program whose participation ended during the preceding 3 years;

[(3)] (III) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

[(4)] (IV) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

[(5)] (V) [two] **FOUR** members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative from the [Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism] **MARYLAND STATE SERVICE COMMISSION.**

[(c)] (B) In making appointments to the **ADVISORY** Board, the President, Speaker, and Governor shall consider:

(1) the professional or personal experience of the individual in community or other service, nonprofit management, civic engagement, or volunteerism; [and]

(2) the cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the State; AND

(3) **AN INDIVIDUAL’S EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING REGIONAL WORKFORCE NEEDS, TRAINING, CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING, AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.**

[(d)] (C) A member of the **ADVISORY** Board:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the **ADVISORY** Board; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

[(e)] (D) (1) The term of a member of the **ADVISORY** Board is 4 years.

(2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members on June 1, [2022] **2023**.

(3) **A MEMBER MAY BE REAPPOINTED BUT MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS.**

[(3)] (4) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

[(f)] (E) (1) A member appointed by the President may be removed by the President for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(2) A member appointed by the Speaker may be removed by the Speaker for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(3) A member appointed by the Governor may be removed by the Governor for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(4) The **ADVISORY** Board Chair may be removed [jointly by the President and the Speaker] **BY THE GOVERNOR** for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(5) A member of the **ADVISORY** Board may be removed for:

- (i) incompetence;
- (ii) misconduct;
- (iii) immorality; or
- (iv) failure to perform the duties of the position.

[(g)] (F) **ADVISORY** Board members are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article.

[(h)] (G) (1) The **ADVISORY** Board shall meet at least [once every 2 months] **THREE TIMES EACH YEAR.**

(2) **ADVISORY** Board meetings are subject to the requirements of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

(H) THE ADVISORY BOARD HAS THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(1) BE A LIAISON WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN:

(I) SEEKING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION;

(II) RECRUITING CORPS PARTICIPANTS;

(III) SEEKING GIFTS OR GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PROGRAM; AND

(IV) MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CURRENT AND FORMER CORPS PARTICIPANTS;

(2) ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON BEST PRACTICES FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM;

(3) PROVIDE OVERSIGHT OF THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION, AND EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM;

(4) PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM-SPONSORED EVENTS; AND

(5) ANY OTHER DUTIES AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

[21-204.

(a) (1) The Board shall appoint an Executive Director.

(2) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board.

(3) The Board shall determine the salary of the Executive Director.

(b) (1) The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the Program.

(2) The Executive Director shall manage the administrative affairs and technical activities of the Program in accordance with the policies and procedures that the Board establishes.

(c) (1) The Board may employ a staff in accordance with its budget.

(2) Staff employed under this section are State employees who:

(i) are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article; and

(ii) may participate in the State Retirement and Pension System under Division II of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.]

[21-205.] 21-204.

(a) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE PROGRAM.**

(B) The [Board] DEPARTMENT is responsible for expanding service opportunities in the State THROUGH THE PROGRAM with the following goals:

(1) creating a strong annual cohort bond of unity for [Program] CORPS participants from urban, rural, and suburban areas of the State;

(2) [subject to subsection (d) of this section,] ensuring all [Marylanders] INDIVIDUALS have equitable access to participate in the Program regardless of gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, geography, NATIVE LANGUAGE, or protected veteran status;

(3) helping [Program] CORPS participants develop the critical job skills necessary for creating a more equitable society as they serve their communities across the State, using the lens of environmental, social, racial, and economic justice; and

(4) ensuring each district of the State can communicate its unique community needs and choose the appropriate solutions.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM TO SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING AND ALLEVIATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON STATE ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN AMERICORPS PROGRAMMING.

(2) IN WORKING WITH THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FOCUS ON EXPANDING THE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN:

(I) STATE AND LOCAL PARKS;

(II) PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SECTORS; AND

(III) THE CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR.

[(b)] (D) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall adopt regulations regarding:

(1) selection criteria for regional operating partners with a global view of the needs of the communities in which the regional operating partner works, who will identify and implement placement priorities FOR EACH PROGRAM PATHWAY in consultation with local community partners to expand capacity and create new service programs as needed;

(2) eligibility requirements for participating organizations, classified by the [Board] DEPARTMENT based on the number of service [members] PLACEMENTS the organization's grant will support, as:

(i) community employers; or

(ii) large-scale employers;

(3) prioritizing the placement of [Program] CORPS participants with [large-scale employers] ORGANIZATIONS based on the organization's demonstrated [need for Program] ABILITY TO TRANSITION participants [who will transition] to full-time employment, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, OR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS following completion of the [Program] SERVICE PLACEMENT;

(4) a centralized process to facilitate efficient screening and placement of [Program] CORPS participants INTO THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE PLACEMENT OF A PROGRAM PATHWAY as well as effective measurement and evaluation of the CORPS participant's service experience;

(5) REASONABLE WORKPLACE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES;

[(5)] (6) stipends for CORPS participants, including:

(i) monetary payment of at least \$15 per hour OR THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER;

(II) health insurance [benefits,] BENEFITS and the potential for wraparound services; and

[(ii)] (III) requirements for large-scale employers to provide matching funds;

[(6)] (7) [an education] A PROGRAM COMPLETION award of \$6,000 for participants that complete at least 9 months of [service,] SERVICE THAT MAY BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

(I) [which shall be deposited] BY DEPOSIT into a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account established under Title 18, Subtitle 19 of the Education Article and may only be used for qualified higher education expenses, as defined in § 18-1901 of the Education Article; OR

(II) PAYMENT OF A CASH STIPEND;

[(7)] (8) workforce development training and wraparound services provided to [Program] CORPS participants by participating organizations OR STATE AGENCIES;

[(8)] (9) additional training and support services provided to [Program] CORPS participants after the completion of the CORPS participant's service;

[(9)] (10) ongoing evaluation of opportunities to expand service in the State to address the State's workforce development needs, including opportunities within State agencies for the creation and expansion of service opportunities within the agencies; and

[(10)] (11) ongoing evaluation of the Program to ensure access and effectiveness, including:

(i) demographics of corps participants, including race, ethnicity, age, SEX, GENDER, education, and geography;

(II) WHETHER PROGRAM PATHWAYS ARE FACILITATING ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SECTOR WORKFORCE POSITIONS;

~~[(ii)]~~ **(III)** post-Program trajectories of corps participants; and

~~[(iii)]~~ **(IV)** an evaluation of the needs served in the community by the Program.

[(c)] The Board may:

(1) Sue and be sued;

(2) Adopt a seal;

(3) Acquire, hold, and dispose of property for its corporate purposes;

(4) Sell, lease, or otherwise convey, in any manner that the Board considers appropriate, any property it owns to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

(5) Enter into contracts and leases and execute any instrument necessary or convenient, on the terms and for any corporate purpose that the Board considers advisable;

(6) Use any other money available under this subtitle or any grant or money from the State or federal government or any of their units or instrumentalities to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

(7) Borrow money for a corporate purpose and mortgage or otherwise encumber its property as security for the loan;

(8) Accept gifts, contributions, or loans of money, supplies, goods, and services, and accept appropriations, allotments, and loans of money from the State or federal government, a federal corporation, a unit or instrumentality of the federal government, or a political subdivision or instrumentality of the State;

(9) Exercise a power usually possessed by a private corporation in performing similar functions unless to do so would conflict with State law; and

(10) Do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted by this subtitle.]

21-205.

(A) (1) THERE IS A YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY IN THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY IS TO:

(I) PROVIDE SERVICE PLACEMENTS TO ELIGIBLE YOUNG ADULTS AS AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO IMMEDIATELY PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING;

(II) EQUIP CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTORING, JOB TRAINING, FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS, AND OTHER SUPPORTS WHILE WORKING IN HIGH-IMPACT SERVICE PLACEMENTS;

(III) ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE STATE'S GREATEST CHALLENGES BY CHANNELING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MARYLAND CITIZENS INTO IMPACTFUL PUBLIC SERVICE; AND

(IV) STRENGTHEN A PIPELINE OF TALENT INTO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FILL PRESENT AND FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS.

(B) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE YA PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

(1) A MARYLAND RESIDENT ON SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION; AND

(2) WITHIN 3 YEARS OF GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR HAVING OBTAINED A SIMILAR LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETION, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS OBTAINED A:

(I) MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA;

(II) MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION; OR

(III) MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAM COMPLETION.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SET TARGETS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE YA PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

(I) 200 CORPS PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION; AND

(II) 2,000 CORPS PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION.

[(d)] (2) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall prioritize for participation in the [Program] YA PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION:

(I) individuals historically underrepresented in:

[(1)] 1. higher education enrollment or completion; or

[(2)] 2. employment [by]:

[(i)] A. BY large-scale and community employers; [or]

[(ii)] B. BY participating organizations; OR

C. IN PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS THAT REQUIRE
LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION; AND

(II) ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SERVICES
TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP FOCUS AREAS FOR THE YA
PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING PRIORITY
STATE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES, INCLUDING:

(1) CLIMATE;

(2) EDUCATION; AND

(3) HEALTH.

(E) A CORPS PARTICIPANT WHO RECEIVES A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE
YA PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) PARTICIPATE IN ALL TRAINING RELATED TO THE SERVICE
PLACEMENT;

(2) WORK AT LEAST 30 HOURS PER WEEK;

(3) BE PARTNERED WITH AN ON-SITE MENTOR;

(4) PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE SERVICE PLACEMENT TO THE
SATISFACTION OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION AND THE DEPARTMENT;

(5) PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM-WIDE EVENTS;

(6) BE PAID \$15 PER HOUR OR THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, FOR MANDATORY WORK HOURS OR MANDATORY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES; AND

(7) ON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, BE NOTIFIED OF ALL AVAILABLE POST-PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE YA PATHWAY TO:

(1) HIGH SCHOOLS AND ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE;

(2) COMMUNITY AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

(3) FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS; AND

(4) EMPLOYERS THAT ARE POTENTIAL SERVICE PLACEMENT PROVIDERS.

(G) (1) THERE IS A YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY FUND.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND IS TO:

(I) PROVIDE STIPENDS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE YA PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION;

(II) PAY THE COSTS TO ADMINISTER AND PROMOTE THE YA PATHWAY UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

(III) ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CORPS PROGRAMS UNDER § 21-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE YA PATHWAY FUND.

(4) ~~THE~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE YA PATHWAY FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(5) (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE YA PATHWAY FUND SEPARATELY AND SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE YA PATHWAY FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(II) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(6) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL SEPARATELY ACCOUNT FOR EACH SOURCE FOR THE YA PATHWAY FUND.

(7) THE DEPARTMENT:

(I) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON FOR THE YA PATHWAY FUND;

(II) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE PURPOSES LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(III) SHALL DEPOSIT WITH THE STATE TREASURER ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE YA PATHWAY FUND.

(8) THE YA PATHWAY FUND CONSISTS OF:

(I) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE YA PATHWAY FUND UNDER THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE BUDGET;

(II) GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YA PATHWAY FUND;

(III) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND; AND

(IV) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND.

(9) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ANY UNSPENT STATE APPROPRIATION OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND SHALL REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

(II) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2026, ~~ANY~~ ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE YA PATHWAY FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

(10) BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2024, AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YA PATHWAY FUND THAT INCLUDES:

(I) AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES TO AND FROM THE YA PATHWAY FUND; AND

(II) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS DISAGGREGATED BY DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES;

2. THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF THE YA PATHWAY DISAGGREGATED BY THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDS;

3. CORPS PARTICIPANT TRANSITION AFTER PROGRAM COMPLETION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT, REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS, AND ANY OTHER POST-PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY;

4. THE NUMBER OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS EMPLOYED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM; AND

5. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, WHAT FORMER CORPS PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING 1 YEAR, 2 YEARS, AND 5 YEARS AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM.

(11) THE YA PATHWAY FUND IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1220 OF THIS ARTICLE.

21-206.

(A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY IN THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE MARYLAND SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY IS TO:

(I) EQUIP CORPS PARTICIPANTS WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTORING, JOB TRAINING, FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS, AND OTHER SUPPORTS WHILE WORKING IN HIGH-IMPACT SERVICE PLACEMENTS;

(II) ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE STATE'S GREATEST CHALLENGES BY CHANNELING THE TALENTS OF INDIVIDUALS INTO IMPACTFUL PUBLIC SERVICE; AND

(III) STRENGTHEN A PIPELINE OF TALENT INTO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FILL PRESENT AND FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS.

(B) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A PLACEMENT IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS INTERESTED IN PERFORMING PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE STATE.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE:

(I) MARYLAND RESIDENTS; AND

(II) HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN:

1. HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION;

OR

2. EMPLOYMENT BY:

A. LARGE-SCALE AND COMMUNITY EMPLOYERS; OR

B. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS.

(C) A CORPS PARTICIPANT WHO RECEIVES A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) PARTICIPATE IN ALL TRAINING RELATED TO THE SERVICE PLACEMENT;

(2) PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE SERVICE PLACEMENT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION AND THE DEPARTMENT;

(3) PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM-WIDE EVENTS AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(4) BE PAID \$15 PER HOUR OR THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, FOR WORK HOURS OR MANDATORY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES; AND

(5) ON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, BE NOTIFIED OF ALL AVAILABLE POST-PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE MSY PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES TO:

(1) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AS DEFINED IN § 3-207 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;

(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGES;

(3) TRADE SCHOOLS;

(4) FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS;

(5) YOUTH WHO ARE DISCONNECTED FROM SCHOOL OR WORK; AND

(6) EMPLOYERS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITH POTENTIAL SERVICE PLACEMENTS FOR THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION.

[21-206.

(a) The Board shall act as an intermediary with the AmeriCorps Program to secure federal funding and alleviate the administrative burden on State organizations seeking to participate in AmeriCorps programming.

(b) In working with the AmeriCorps Program under subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall focus on expanding the service opportunities in State and local parks and in the public health sector.]

[21-207.]

[(a)] (E) (1) There is a Maryland [Corps Program] SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY Fund.

[(b)] (2) The purpose of the MSY PATHWAY Fund is to:

[(1)] (I) provide stipends to corps participants WITH A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION;

[(2)] (II) provide PROGRAM COMPLETION [scholarships] AWARDS to corps participants who have completed the Program [to be used at institutions of higher

education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees];

[(3)] (III) cover expenses incurred by the [Board] DEPARTMENT, including expenses incurred to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

[(4)] (IV) cover expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could be better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; [and]

[(5)] (V) provide funding for the [Program] MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION to match gifts or grants received by the [Board] DEPARTMENT for the MSY PATHWAY Fund; AND

(VI) ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CORPS PROGRAMS UNDER § 21-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

[(c)] (3) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall administer the MSY PATHWAY Fund.

[(d)] (4) ~~The~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (10) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE MSY PATHWAY Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

[(e) (1)] (5) (I) The State Treasurer shall hold the MSY PATHWAY Fund separately and shall invest the money in the MSY PATHWAY Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

[(2)] (II) Any investment earnings of the MSY PATHWAY Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

[(f)] (6) The Comptroller shall SEPARATELY account FOR EACH SOURCE for the MSY PATHWAY Fund.

[(g)] (7) The [Board] DEPARTMENT:

[(1)] (I) may accept any gift or grant from any person for the MSY PATHWAY Fund;

[(2)] (II) shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated under [subsection (b) of this section] PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; and

[(3)] (III) shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the MSY PATHWAY Fund with the State Treasurer.

[(h)] (8) The MSY PATHWAY Fund consists of:

[(1)] (I) money appropriated under [§ 9-2818 of this subtitle]
SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION;

[(2)] (II) gifts or grants received by the [Board] DEPARTMENT for the MSY PATHWAY Fund;

[(3)] (III) investment earnings of the MSY PATHWAY Fund; and

[(4)] (IV) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the MSY PATHWAY Fund.

[(i)] (9) The MSY PATHWAY Fund may be used only [for:

(1) providing stipends to corps participants;

(2) providing scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

(3) covering expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

(4) covering expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could be better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; and

(5) Providing funding for the Program to match gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund] FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

[(i)] (10) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ANY UNSPENT STATE APPROPRIATION OF THE MSY PATHWAY FUND SHALL REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

(II) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2026, ~~Any~~ ANY unspent portion of the MSY PATHWAY Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but shall remain in the MSY PATHWAY Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this subtitle.

[(k)] (1) (11) (I) Beginning with fiscal year [2018] 2024, at the end of [the] EACH fiscal year, the [Board] DEPARTMENT shall prepare an annual report of the MSY PATHWAY Fund that includes:

1. an accounting of all financial receipts and expenditures to and from the MSY PATHWAY Fund; AND

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS DISAGGREGATED BY DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES;

B. THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF THE MSY PATHWAY DISAGGREGATED BY THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDS;

C. CORPS PARTICIPANT TRANSITION AFTER PROGRAM COMPLETION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT, REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS, AND ANY OTHER POST-PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY;

D. THE NUMBER OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS EMPLOYED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM; AND

E. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, WHAT FORMER CORPS PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING 1 YEAR, 2 YEARS, AND 5 YEARS AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM.

[(2)] (II) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of this article.

[(l)] (12) The MSY PATHWAY Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative Auditor.

[21-208.]

[(a)] (F) (1) The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the MSY PATHWAY Fund of:

[(1)] (I) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

[(2)] (II) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

[(3)] (III) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

[(4)] (IV) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

[(b)] (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that[:

(1) appropriations made under [subsection (a) of this section] PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION are in addition to any federal funding received for State service or volunteer programming[; and

(2) Any federal funding received by the State for service or volunteer programming shall be deposited into the Fund for use by the Program].

[(c)] (3) Appropriations made under [subsection (a) of this section] PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION and other funding received by the [Board] DEPARTMENT FOR THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION shall be used to:

[(1)] (I) provide stipends to corps participants WITH A SERVICE PLACEMENT IN THE MSY PATHWAY UNDER THIS SECTION;

[(2)] (II) provide [scholarships] PROGRAM COMPLETION AWARDS to corps participants who have completed the Program [to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees];

[(3)] (III) cover expenses incurred by the [Board] DEPARTMENT, including expenses incurred in marketing and recruitment; and

[(4)] (IV) cover programmatic expenses to expand service opportunities throughout the State, including[:

(i) In partnership with regional operating partners, creating and maintaining an online platform through which individuals and corps participants can search and apply for service opportunities throughout the State;

(ii) Expanding] EXPANDING the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of the Natural Resources Article[;

(iii) creating a Maryland Civilian Climate Corps to conserve and restore State and local parks and engage in other climate or environmental projects;

(iv) creating a Maryland Historic Trades Corps to place young adults and young veterans in regionally based work crews tasked with rehabilitation of State historic resources;

(v) expanding the Maryland Conservation Corps to engage in projects that manage natural resources and conserve parks; and

(vi) Providing staff for the Program].

[(d) Marketing and recruitment conducted by the Program under subsection (c)(3) of this section shall prioritize:

(1) Historically black colleges and universities, as defined in § 3–207 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(2) Community colleges;

(3) High schools with low rates of matriculation to 2– and 4–year institutions of higher education;

(4) Trade schools; and

(5) Youth who are disconnected from school or work.]

[21–209.] 21–207.

(A) (1) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall explore the possibility of:

[(1)] (I) accessing federal or other grant funding for the Program; and

[(2)] (II) awarding corps participants with:

1. academic credit for their service; OR

2. CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE TOWARD TRADE OR VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, AND ANY OTHER ENTITY THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES RELEVANT IN DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY FROM THE YA PATHWAY FUND UNDER § 21–205 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE MSY PATHWAY FUND UNDER § 21–206 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO:

(1) CREATE A MARYLAND CIVILIAN CLIMATE CORPS TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE STATE AND LOCAL PARKS AND ENGAGE IN OTHER CLIMATE OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS;

(2) CREATE A MARYLAND HISTORIC TRADES CORPS TO PLACE YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG VETERANS IN REGIONALLY BASED WORK CREWS TASKED WITH REHABILITATION OF STATE HISTORIC RESOURCES; AND

(3) EXPAND THE MARYLAND CONSERVATION CORPS TO ENGAGE IN PROJECTS THAT MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVE PARKS.

21-208.

(A) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM.

(B) THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SHALL EVALUATE:

(1) THE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITIES BEING SERVED BY THE PROGRAM;

(2) THE BENEFITS TO CORPS PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETED THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING EFFICACY IN TRANSITIONING CORPS PARTICIPANTS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, THE WORKFORCE, OR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS;

(3) THE EFFICACY OF THE PROGRAM'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING, TRAINING, AND MENTORING IN SUPPORTING THE STATE'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS;

(4) THE PROGRAM DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OVERALL EFFICIENCY IN DELIVERING INTENDED OUTCOMES; AND

(5) ANY ADDITIONAL PROGRAM METRICS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE RESULTS OF THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(D) BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH AN ONLINE DASHBOARD OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AS DETERMINED IN THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

[21–210.] 21–209.

On or before December 1 each year, the [Board] DEPARTMENT shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of this article, the General Assembly regarding:

- (1) the number and amount of stipends awarded under the Program;
- (2) the **BUSINESSES**, nonprofit **ORGANIZATIONS**, or government agencies with which corps participants are placed;
- (3) the institutions, if any, that award academic credit for a corps participant's service;
- (4) the number and amount of [scholarships] **PROGRAM COMPLETION AWARDS** awarded under the Program; and
- (5) [at which] **THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL** institutions **AT WHICH** corps participants use their [scholarships] **PROGRAM COMPLETION AWARDS**.

SUBTITLE 11A. SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM.

~~24–11A–01.~~

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.

(C) “FUND” MEANS THE SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM FUND.

(D) “PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER” MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY PARTICIPATING AS AN EMPLOYER UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM.

(F) “PROGRAM PARTICIPANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

~~(1) HAS RECEIVED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED, OR COMPARABLE PROOF OF EQUIVALENT EDUCATIONAL LEVEL WITHIN 2 YEARS BEFORE APPLYING FOR A SERVICE PLACEMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM; OR~~

~~(2) QUALIFIES FOR A SERVICE PLACEMENT UNDER ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.~~

~~(G) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION.~~

~~(H) "SERVICE PLACEMENT" MEANS THE JOB ASSIGNMENT DESIGNATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~24-11A-02.~~

~~(A) THERE IS A SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM IN THE STATE.~~

~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:~~

~~(1) PROVIDE SERVICE PLACEMENTS TO RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH SIMILAR LEVELS OF EDUCATION AS AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO PURSUING CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING OR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;~~

~~(2) EQUIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTORING, JOB TRAINING, AND OTHER SUPPORT WHILE WORKING IN HIGH IMPACT SERVICE PLACEMENTS;~~

~~(3) HELP ADDRESS THE STATE'S GREATEST CHALLENGES BY CHANNELING THE NEXT GENERATION INTO PUBLIC IMPACT WORK; AND~~

~~(4) STRENGTHEN A PIPELINE OF TALENT INTO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FILL PRESENT AND FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

~~(1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(2) PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~24-11A-03.~~

~~(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

- ~~(1) DESIGN THE PROGRAM;~~
 - ~~(2) IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH NONPROFIT ENTITIES WHO MAY RECEIVE GRANTS TO SERVE AS REGIONAL PROGRAM LEADERS ACROSS THE STATE;~~
 - ~~(3) CREATE A STATEWIDE NETWORK FOR ALL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ACROSS THE STATE;~~
 - ~~(4) PROMOTE AND COMMUNICATE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES TO HIGH SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS ACROSS THE STATE;~~
 - ~~(5) (i) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CENTRAL APPLICATION PROCESS; AND~~
 - ~~(ii) ASSIST APPLICANTS WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS;~~
 - ~~(6) BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE ONLINE PORTAL TO MANAGE OPENINGS FOR SERVICE PLACEMENTS;~~
 - ~~(7) IDENTIFY PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS WHO CAN PROVIDE A WIDE ARRAY OF BENEFITS, INCLUDING MENTORING AND CAREER AND COLLEGE COACHING;~~
 - ~~(8) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SELECT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT REFLECT THE GENDER, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE; AND~~
 - ~~(9) EVALUATE THE OVERALL OPERATIONS OF THE PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY.~~
- ~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SET TARGETS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING:~~
- ~~(1) 200 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION; AND~~
 - ~~(2) 2000 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION.~~
- ~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS TO ADDRESS PRIORITY ISSUES, INCLUDING:~~

- ~~(1) CLIMATE;~~
- ~~(2) EDUCATION; AND~~
- ~~(3) HEALTH.~~

~~24-11A-04.~~

~~(A) (1) WHILE WORKING IN A SERVICE PLACEMENT, A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SHALL:~~

~~(i) WORK AT LEAST 30 HOURS PER WEEK; AND~~

~~(ii) PARTNER WITH AN ON-SITE MENTOR WHO PROVIDES:~~

~~1. JOB TRAINING;~~

~~2. CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COUNSELING;~~

~~3. FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS; AND~~

~~4. ANY OTHER SUPPORT NEEDED.~~

~~(2) A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER SHALL PAY A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT \$15 PER HOUR.~~

~~(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISBURSE A STIPEND OF UP TO \$3,000 TO A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WHO COMPLETES A SERVICE PLACEMENT.~~

~~(C) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SHALL:~~

~~(1) PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE SERVICE PLACEMENT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER AND THE DEPARTMENT;~~

~~(2) PARTICIPATE IN ALL TRAINING RELATED TO THE SERVICE PLACEMENT AND FUTURE CAREERS OR EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS; AND~~

~~(3) PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM-WIDE EVENTS TO:~~

~~(i) EXPAND THE PARTICIPANT'S PROFESSIONAL NETWORK;~~

~~(ii) MAKE CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(III) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STATE RESOURCES.~~

~~(D) AS NEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISBURSE A PRORATED STIPEND AMOUNT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.~~

~~24-11A-05.~~

~~(A) THERE IS A SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM FUND.~~

~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:~~

~~(1) PROVIDE STIPENDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; AND~~

~~(2) PAY THE COSTS TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.~~

~~(D) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

~~(E) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.~~

~~(2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.~~

~~(F) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

~~(G) THE DEPARTMENT:~~

~~(1) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON FOR THE FUND;~~

~~(2) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE PURPOSES LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

~~(3) SHALL DEPOSIT WITH THE STATE TREASURER ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE FUND.~~

~~(H) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:~~

~~(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE BUDGET;~~

~~(2) GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FUND;~~

~~(3) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND~~

~~(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.~~

~~(I) ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(J) THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

~~24-11A-06.~~

~~(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROCURE THE SERVICES OF A THIRD PARTY ENTITY TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) THE STUDY SHALL EMPLOY:~~

~~(I) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT, IF FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL; OR~~

~~(II) OTHER RESEARCH METHODS THAT ALLOW FOR THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CAUSAL INFERENCES, IF RANDOM ASSIGNMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL IN THIS INSTANCE.~~

~~(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE THIRD PARTY ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~(C) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH AN ONLINE DASHBOARD OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SHOWN IN THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~24-11A-07.~~

~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ON:~~

- ~~(1) THE APPLICATION PROCESS;~~
- ~~(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS;~~
- ~~(3) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS; AND~~
- ~~(4) THE DISBURSEMENT OF STIPENDS.~~

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6–226.

(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

~~170.~~ 169. the Cannabis Public Health Fund; [and]

~~171.~~ 170. the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund;

~~AND~~

~~172.~~ 171. THE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE YEAR OPTION PROGRAM PATHWAY FUND; AND

~~173.~~ 172. THE MARYLAND SERVICE YEAR OPTION PATHWAY FUND.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.~~

SECTION 5. 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial members of the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board under § 21–203 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 4 of this Act, shall expire as follows:

(1) the terms of the one member appointed by the President of the Senate, the one member appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two members appointed by the Governor shall expire on June 30, 2025; and

(2) the terms of the chair of the Advisory Board, the two members jointly appointed by the President and the Speaker, and two members appointed by the Governor shall expire on June 30, 2026.

SECTION ~~6~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2023.