



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

O-12-24

Maritime Industry Economic Development Fund

This summary was prepared by the City of Annapolis Office of Law for use by members of the Annapolis City Council during consideration of the legislation.

BILL SUMMARY

O-12-24 creates a new chapter of the City Code for "special funds" and, within that chapter, creates the Maritime Industry Economic Development Fund for maritime-related economic development in the City's maritime districts.

The City requires maritime properties to set aside floor space for maritime industry use. Property owners in maritime zones are required to pay a fee if they don't follow that requirement.

Those fees collected from property owners outside their leased non-maritime percentages in the maritime districts will go into the Maritime Industry Economic Development Fund.

The legislation also allows other maritime money -- through public bonds, grants, donations, etc. -- to go into the fund and be used for maritime development.

The City's finance director would maintain the fund, but money would be allocated by the City Council and dispersed by the Planning and Zoning Department director for maritime economic programs.

BACKGROUND

In 1988, the Annapolis City Council took several significant steps to protect and promote the City's maritime industry.

- The Council passed Article II, Section 16 of the City Charter (CA-4-88), which allowed the Council to establish economic development programs by creating special funds to help persons, business organizations, or other entities.
- The Council passed an ordinance (O-51-88) to create a Maritime Economic Development Program to implement initiatives suggested in a Maritime Zoning



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and Economic Strategy report by planning and zoning consultants and submitted to the City in November 1986. It also created The Maritime Industry Economic Development Fund" to promote the maritime industry.

- The Council created the Maritime Advisory Board (O-51-88).
- And the Council created the Waterfront Maritime Districts (O-49-87A) that oversee development along the City's waterfront.

The "Maritime Industry Economic Development Fund" was to 1) encourage private enterprises and public partnerships in the development of maritime industrial parks; 2) promote the maritime industry within the City through education, career development and sports programs; 3) share state, federal and private grants for Bay access and waterfront improvement; 4) purchase appraisals and surveys for the acquisition of easements and development rights in the maritime district; and 5) purchase the development rights of non-maritime use in the maritime districts.

The fund was to be funded with a portion of the slip tax and a City bonding capacity not to exceed \$1.5 million.

The fund is referred to in § 21.64.520:

- E. In the WMM, WMI, and WME districts, a fee based on the square footage of non-maritime uses, established by resolution of the City Council, and outlined in the fees schedule, shall be assessed to the property owner for the purposes of supporting the Annapolis Maritime Industry Fund and associated programs administered by the City of Annapolis.

However, it appears the fund was never set up. This legislation seeks to correct that.