

Sections

Budget Amendments

Add the following section:

Section XX Georges Creek Task Force Action Report Funding and Policy Intent

Section XX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Maryland Department of Transportation work collaboratively to mitigate the impacts of future flooding along the Georges Creek in Allegany County. MDE, MDEM, and MDOT shall implement the recommendations in the draft Georges Creek Task Force Action Report dated October 27, 2025, through policy revisions, legislative proposals, and funding allocations. The Task Force recommendations for MDEM, MDE, and MDOT to address include the following:

- (1) MDEM
 - a. Reimbursement of the estimated damage costs that were not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
 - b. collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on ensuring properly prepared federal agents are on site;
 - c. authorization for local governments to lead message development around the use of State Disaster Relief Funds;
 - d. establishment of a funding mechanism to support the umbrella organization Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster's provision of recovery services in the Georges Creek Valley for up to three years;
 - e. establishment of a State Voluntary Flood Buyout Program for willing affected property owners;
 - f. coordination with the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland or the Maryland Municipal League on high-level training for elected and appointed Western Maryland officials every two years on the Incident Command Structure and National Incident Management System;
 - g. ensure that municipal governments are involved in the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan;
 - h. fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' hydraulic study and its additional hydraulic work in Georges Creek to reduce future flooding impacts;

- i. fund floodproofing or relocation of critical public infrastructure, including emergency service stations;
 - (2) MDE
 - a. fund floodproofing or relocation of critical public infrastructure, including water distribution and sewage collection systems;
 - b. allocate funding annually to Allegany County for maintenance of Georges Creek and its tributaries;
 - c. delegate authority to county government for stream maintenance decisions that balance environmental considerations with human health and property considerations by following best management practices to the maximum extent possible;
 - d. fund updates to the Upper Potomac River Commission/Westernport wastewater treatment plant to support county-wide environmental protection and bolster regional economic development;
 - (3) MDOT
 - a. fund improvements to Allegany County and municipal roads and bridges (MDOT); and
 - b. conduct long-term planning for the future of the railroad, including a cost benefit analysis to determine whether railroad bridges should be raised or removed to prevent flooding associated with the bridges (MDOT).

It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the Western Maryland delegation report to the Allegany County Commissioners every two years beginning calendar 2026 on flood mitigation efforts and progress in the George's Creek catchment area.

Explanation: This action expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) work collaboratively to mitigate the impacts of future flooding along the Georges Creek in Allegany County by implement the recommendations in the draft Georges Creek Task Force Action Report dated calendar 2025 through policy revisions, legislative proposals, and funding allocations. . Georges Creek reached the major flood stage and then crested at 14 feet 1 inch on May 13, 2025, causing significant damage between Lonaconing and Westernport to approximately 300 residential properties, businesses, and both road and water/sewer infrastructure. This action also expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Western Maryland delegation be accountable for apprising Allegany County Commissioners of the status of and needs for flood mitigation.