



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 254 – On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Inspection - Licensing

SPONSOR: Senator Young

HEARING DATE: February 11, 2020

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 254 – On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Inspection – Licensing**, which prohibits anyone from inspecting an on-site sewage disposal system unless the person holds a septic inspection license issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on or after May 1, 2021. Under this bill, the Department must adopt eligibility regulations and establish training requirements for septic inspection licenses on or before January 1, 2021. SB 254 also defines an application and fee for this license and potential penalties.

SB 254 would standardize inspection of on-site sewage disposal systems to ensure they do not pose a public health hazard. Currently, property transfer inspections are completely unregulated, which creates confusion for residents and inconsistencies in quality. The Prince George's County Health Department is delegated responsibility for on-site sewage disposal system inspections for all other installations. A licensure process for property transfer inspectors would ensure that inspectors are qualified with the training and knowledge necessary to adequately assess septic systems.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 254** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.