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BILL NO.: **SB 671**

TITLE: Bay Restoration Fund – Allocation of Fees, Authorizes Uses,
and County Authority to Incur Indebtedness

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 19, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 671 – Bay Restoration Fund – Allocation of Fees, Authorizes Uses, and County Authority to Incur Indebtedness. This legislation would allow up to \$25 million from the Bay Restoration Fund to be borrowed by counties to pay for the design and installation of septic systems that utilize the best available technology for nitrogen removal.

Nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay leads to algae blooms, which block sunlight to underwater grasses and consume the oxygen in the water, creating “dead zones” that kill fish and shellfish. Malfunctioning sewage disposal systems contribute heavily to this issue.

Currently, the Bay Restoration Fund only covers a third of the complete installation cost of Best Available Technology units in a typical repair system, which can place a significant financial burden on homeowners attempting to install proper sewage disposal systems. SB 671 would allow counties to borrow from the \$25 million in the separate account to cover the cost of new septic systems that effectively remove nitrogen.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 671. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.