



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 539 Local Governments - Resilience Authorities - Authorization

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports HB 539 as providing Maryland communities the flexibility to address their unique needs to mitigate the effects of climate change. This bill enables counties and municipalities to create “resilience authorities” that can issue bonds as the funding mechanisms for critical resiliency projects.

COMMENTS

The threats posed by sea level rise and climate change create planning, infrastructure, and emergency management needs. These increased demands may strain county and municipal budgets. At the same time, existing State funding for environmental programs, some of which may help mitigate the effects of severe weather patterns and flooding, is limited, and the intended water quality focus of that funding must be maintained for the State to reach the environmental preservation aims of the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint.

This bill enables counties and municipalities to create “resilience authorities” that can issue bonds for the primary purpose of funding critical resiliency projects. The flexibility to use resilience authority bonding mechanisms to acquire property for resilience infrastructure, and construct, improve, and maintain existing resilience infrastructure supports the ability of counties and municipalities in addressing the raft of issues brought on by sea level rise and climate change.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, CBF urges a favorable report on HB 539. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Staff Attorney at 443.482.2165 or reilenberg@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.