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BILL NO.: HB 267

TITLE: Sewage Treatment Plants - Effluent Discharges - Impacts on Midge Populations

SPONSOR: Delegate Grammer

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 17, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 267 – Sewage Treatment Plants - Effluent Discharges - Impacts on Midge Populations. This legislation requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharge from sewage treatment plants and evaluate whether this impacts local midge populations.

Midge populations overwhelm communities in Baltimore County, specifically in the County's eastern waterfront areas. These small fleas habituate and breed in standing water, a problem that is worsened with the introduction of significant amounts of effluent discharge.

Baltimore County has begun the process of overhauling our sewage facilities and wastewater treatment plants. The renovations range from infrastructural improvements to developing and executing total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plans to improve the quality of the water discharged by our plants. While this has been a successful process, further resources from the state are necessary to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding communities.

This bill will require The Maryland Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharge from these treatment plants and evaluate whether the nutrients or other constituents may be contributing to midge population growth. The bill could give the County vital information for development and execution of TMDL Implementation Plans along with information regarding the issue of nuisance midges in tidal waters of Baltimore County.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 267. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.