

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



Reply to:

DATE: February 2, 2022
TO: Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: SB 113 Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems-
Transfer of Responsibilities and Standards, Regulations, Applications, and Plans

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) **Supports with Amendments SB 113.**

Through a collaboration with MACo and Senator Hester's Office, the Conference has provided input and we believe that our suggested amendments have been accepted. While we do not have complete agreement on all matters or confirmation of those changes, we trust the below amendments will ultimately be made as promised.

- Remove clause that would shift the Board of Environmental Health Specialists and staff from the Maryland Department of Health to the Maryland Department of the Environment and subsequent references to this shift since the responsibility of the Board is not to oversee on-site sewage disposal systems and is better supported under the Maryland Department of Health;
- Remove 9-1114 B(1) that would require the approval or denial of septic applications within two months and any subsequent references to this timer as building submittal and approval procedures varies from county to county and will potentially lead to ill-informed and rushed determinations, which will jeopardize efforts to protect public health and the environment;
- Any database created by the Maryland Department of the Environment for the purposes tracking septic applications shall be single data entry for local health departments; and
- There shall be an appropriation in the operating budget of \$5,000,000 to address pay disparities and staffing shortages for Environmental Health Specialist employees within the Maryland Department of Health to assist with recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

Accordingly, we request the Committee **SUPPORT SB 113 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact:

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