



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 924

Sewage Treatment Plants – Effluent Discharges, Discharge Permits, and
Property Tax Credit for Impacted Dwellings

Date: March 1, 2023
To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support
From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 924 which requires enhanced oversight by MDE of wastewater treatment plants with effluent volumes exceeding 50M gallon per day. The bill also requires the Department to review potential new technologies before granting new permits for wastewater treatment plants and provides a tax credit for nearby residents that experience midge infestations based on improper operations.

Failures at Baltimore's two wastewater treatment plants in 2020 and 2021 have been well publicized and resulted in a reversal of Maryland's progress on reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loads under the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint. Another bill being considered this legislative session would create a regional water and wastewater governance authority which may address some of these issues into the future. However, there is immediate and ongoing need for MDE to maintain close oversight of operations at these two plants to assure permit limits are met until the Task Force recommendations can be implemented and enhanced oversight proven to be no longer needed.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 924.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at mstegman@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 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.