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The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Stein Testimony in Favor

HB030 Environment- On-site Wastewater Services – Board, Fees, and Penalties

This bill asks for several key fixes to a bill we passed last year (HB318) which established a professional licensing board for the septic industry. The purpose of HB 318 was to bring much-needed standards and accountability to the septic industry by creating a board to oversee the licensing procedures for people in the industry, such as installers, designers, property transfer inspectors, operations and maintenance providers, and pumpers. The septic board is just like the licensing boards for plumbers, electricians, well drillers, and other trade professionals.

The changes proposed in this year's bill are in response to issues that arose as MDE started to implement the bill and have been shared with them.

Clarification 1. Page 2 line 5:

This change makes it clear that the only time a Property Transfer license is required is when there's an inspection for the purpose of property transfer.

Clarification 2. Page 2 line 24 – 26:

The text in these lines clarifies that application fees are paid into the on-site wastewater professionals fund established under last year's bill.

Clarification 3. Page 2 line 30:

This change is for the same reason as Clarification 1.

Clarification 4. Page 3 lines 3 – 4:

This change is needed to specify the Fund into which any penalty will be paid. Penalties collected will be paid into the Maryland Clean Water Fund.

Clarification 5. Page 3 line 21:

To make the numbers work out for the total board membership, the bill reduces the number of professional on-site members from six to five.

Clarification 6. Page 3 Lines 24 – Page 4 line 7:

By deleting lines 25 on page 3 through Line 7 on page 4, this change simplifies the geographic requirement for board members and, instead of mandating one from each of five regions of the state, it substitutes the preferred language: “shall be representative of all geographic regions of the State.”

As we have learned, it is hard to get memberships in these boards, and we want to give some flexibility to the Governor’s Office to make this more possible.

Clarification 7. Page 6 Line 7-8:

This change establishes the “On-site Wastewater Professional Fund” to be used by MDE to pay for the cost of board administration from the fees collected.

The bill is an emergency bill so that there’s no delay in MDE’s work to implement last year’s legislation.

These changes are supported by the groups that worked so hard over several years to create an effective licensing board for the septic or on-site industry.