



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 22, 2023

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 607 – Water Pollution Control - Discharge Permits - Stormwater Associated With Construction Activity

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 607, which creates a new stormwater permit for stream restoration in specific circumstances, effectively shifting the cost and responsibility for stream restoration from a local government to the polluter/developer. The permit holder would be responsible for runoff and erosion from the construction site, with fair but significant penalties for failing to do so. The bill also enables local governments to order the permit holder to remediate their violations.

Local governments are eligible permit applicants and would have to follow these stricter standards, which could increase costs. However, the estimated costs are not significant, and municipalities feel a slight increase is a fair tradeoff to hold the perpetrators of construction-related runoff and erosion responsible for restoration.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 670 with a favorable report.

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