



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## House Bill 635

Water Pollution Control – Discharges From Construction Sites – Limits on Liability

Date: February 22, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Unfavorable

From: Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 635 which limits liability for construction site stormwater discharges.

Maryland Department of the Environment and EPA recently went through extensive public processes to update construction stormwater permits. For the first time, there are now numeric limits for suspended sediment discharges, a marked improvement to previous versions of this permit. The permit requirements for monitoring and reporting are designed to allow construction contractors to stop work and take corrective actions when a rainfall event overwhelms erosion and sediment control practices. Administrative penalties remain an important tool for assuring compliance with the new standards.

Compliance with construction stormwater permit standards is a critical part of Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Bay Cleanup and assures that local waterways meet water quality standards for water supply, fishing and contact recreation.

**CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 635.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto: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.*