



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 777 - State Treasurer - Membership Responsibilities

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) takes no position on Senate Bill 777, but would like to offer the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

MES – an independent, non-budgeted unit of state government – is governed by an eight-member (seven voting) Board of Directors, of which the State Treasurer is currently a voting member. The other Board Members include three private sector members and three public sector members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The MES Executive Director is a non-voting member.

MES currently has a departmental bill (Senate Bill 293 and House Bill 78). SB 293 was assigned to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment while HB 78 was jointly assigned to the House Appropriations and House Environment and Transportation Committees.

MES's departmental bill does not contemplate removing the State Treasurer from the MES Board of Directors, but it does propose to lower the threshold for a quorum down to four (currently five) Board Members. It does not change the minimum vote threshold required for approving actions by the Board (currently five votes).

In addition, the issue of MES's departmental bill and the Treasurer's bill was discussed at the most recent meeting of the MES Board of Directors (January 25, 2024). At that meeting, the Board voted to support the MES departmental bill and to keep the vote threshold at five, **if the Board of Directors remains at seven voting members.**

However, should the legislature decide that removing the State Treasurer from the MES Board of Directors is an appropriate course of action, thereby reducing the MES Board to six voting members, the Board of Directors supports moving both the quorum and vote thresholds down to four.

MES has been in communication with the Treasurer's office about these issues and will continue to coordinate our respective bills.

We thank you for taking these comments into consideration. If you have any questions about this or about MES's departmental bill, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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