

HEARING DATE: February 20, 2024

BILL NO: SB0835

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

TITLE: Environment - Delegated Authorities - Well and Septic Program Permits

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill requires the MDE delegated authority that administers the county septic and well program to submit by December 1, 2024, a schedule of review times for well and septic program permits for MDE to approve. The bill also requires the MDE delegated authority to submit well and septic program permit data to MDE every 3 months.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports SB0835. The well and septic program permit data would be very useful for various planning analyses, such as an analysis of development activity outside of areas served by public water and sewer systems. Also, by requiring the submittal of local well and septic program permit data to MDE, the state would also ensure that a single format is followed by each local government for providing this data, which currently is gathered locally in different formats. Having the local data in a single format would facilitate the completion of state-level analyses. MDP will note that It would be beneficial to have this data included in an existing or alternative reporting process rather than a separate process entirely as proposed in the bill's current language.