

An Affiliate of
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.



TO: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: Senate Bill 726, Bay Restoration Fund- Authorized Uses- Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) **SUPPORT SB726 WITH AN AMENDMENT**. The Conference is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

This Bill revises the Bay Restoration Fund to include the fund to pay for the costs to decommission a wastewater treatment lagoon, located partly or wholly in a floodplain starting in Fiscal Year 2026.

The Bay Restoration Fund has provided funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plants to enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technologies to achieve wastewater effluent quality of total Nitrogen at 3 mg/l and total Phosphorus at 0.3 mg/l. The goal of the Bay Restoration Fund is to reduce the level of Nitrogen being discharged into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Utilizing the Bay Restoration Fund to decommission wastewater treatment lagoons would continue with those goals.

The Conference is requesting the SB726 to be amended as follows:

On page 3, on line 26 after “**Lagoon**” insert, “**AND BERMED INFILTRATION PONDS**”.

The Conference supports SB726 with an amendment. Accordingly, we ask the committee to give SB726 with an amendment a **Favorable** vote.

For more information, contact:

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