



Senate Bill 835 – Environment - Delegated Authorities - Well and Septic Program Permits

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports SB 835, to establish reporting requirements for local septic permit processing times.

The septic approval process and operations of local health departments regarding septic inspections have been a concern for real estate professionals and their clients for several years. Delays in receiving necessary permits and inspections, as well as changing standards, have led to delays in real estate transactions and even cancellations of contracts to purchase.

In our discussions with these local health departments, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and elected officials, one impediment to better operations is a lack of uniform information on septic activities in the state. It is difficult to determine whether inspection and processing delays are occurring statewide or if they are regional anomalies.

SB 835 is a necessary first step to developing that system and providing accountability for timely processing of permit applications and inspections. And, if reporting determines that timely processing is not occurring, this will allow the state to look at alternate approaches to the current system.

Based upon the growing impacts that septic system approvals and inspections are having on the industry, REALTORS® urge greater oversight of this process and ask for your support of SB 835.

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