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BILL NO.: HB 1264

TITLE: Reservoir, Dam, or Waterway Obstruction Construction
Permits – Conditions for Exemption

SPONSOR: Delegate Allen

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 6, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** HB 1264 – Reservoir, Dam, or Waterway Obstruction Construction Permits – Conditions for Exemption.

Maryland law requires a State permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to construct a small pond or dam. The law currently provides exemption from the State permit if seven conditions are met. One of three conditions is that the pond is not located within drainage of one of the three interjurisdictional watersheds of Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, or Herring Run in Baltimore County and Baltimore City. HB 1264 will remove this condition from the exemption.

The law provides exemptions from obtaining a State permit from the MDE as long as six technical exemption requirements are met, including the pond is designated as a small pond, the pond meets the minimum State safety standards, the design plan is approved by the local soil conservation district, the dam is not greater than 20 feet in height, the pond is considered a low hazard structure, and it is not a wastewater stabilization pond. With the Stormwater laws and the oversight of the federal permit, there is no added environmental value on these special designations as the design requirements will still be applicable.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1264 from the House Environment and Transportation Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.