



An Affiliate of
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)
RE: **House Bill 245, Department of the Environment- Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation**

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **SUPPORT HB 245 WITH AMENDMENTS**. Both groups are affiliates of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) with MACHO serving as the professional association of the state's twenty-four Health Officers who oversee the state's twenty-four local public health departments, including the local environmental health programs.

In discussions with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), MDE, MACHO, and the Conference agreed to amend HB 245 as follows (MDE amendment):

On page 5, in line 31, after "**PERMITS**" insert "**IN A COUNTY**".
On page 6, strike beginning with "A" in line 1 down through "**SECRETARY**" in line 4 and substitute:

**"1. THE DEPARTMENT WITHDRAWLS THE AUTHORITY DELEGATED UNDER THIS SECTION TO PROCESS AND ISSUE ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PERMITS OR INDIVIDUAL WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FROM A HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE COUNTY OR ANOTHER COUNTY OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS; OR
2. THE HEALTH OFFICER OR COUNTY OFFICIAL RETURNS THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT "**

And, amend as follows (MDE amendment):

On page 6, line 6, "**(II) A LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REVIEWS AND APPROVES THE PERMITS.**"

MACHO and the Conference agree with these amendments. Accordingly, we ask the committee to give HB 245 with amendments a **Favorable** vote.

For more information, contact:

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