

An Affiliate of
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.



Date: February 28, 2024
TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: House Bill 1320, Bay Restoration Fund- Disbursement and Use of Fund

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) SUPPORTs **HB 1320 WITH AN AMENDMENT**. The Conference is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

On page 3, strike beginning with “**THE**” in line 1 down through “**NITROGEN**” on line 6.

The Conference is requesting HB1320 to be amended to remove paying for the costs attributed to testing, engineering or design of an on-site sewage disposal system as well as the costs attributed to installing or replacing the drainfield of an on-site sewage disposal system. Based on information from some Counties, these costs could well exceed \$30,000.00. This would take funding away from the funds needed to upgrade on-site sewage disposal systems with nitrogen reducing units that reduce the amount of Nitrogen being discharged into individual on-site sewage disposal systems. The goal of the Bay Restoration Fund is to reduce the Nitrogen discharged.

The amount of funding some Counties currently received is limited and the costs of testing, design, engineering, design and installation of a replacement on-site sewage disposal system would substantially reduce the number of Nitrogen Reducing Units to be installed. Some Counties already do not receive sufficient funding and have waiting lists from one Fiscal Year to another when new funding is received.

The Conference requests HB1320 be modified with this amendment. Accordingly, we ask the committee to give HB1320 with an amendment a **Favorable** vote.

For more information, contact:

Conference: Don Curtian, President, Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors,
Phone: 410-222-7050, hdcurti@aacounty.org