



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Shannon Moore, Director

SB 969 – Stream and Watershed Restoration - Stream Restoration Contractor Licensing and Projects and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Restoration and Funding (Whole Watershed Act)

DATE: March 26, 2024
COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: Shannon Moore, Division of Energy and Environment Director

As the Frederick County Energy and Environment Division Director, I urge the committee to give SB 969 a favorable with amendments report.

This bill aims to create a Stream Restoration Contractors Licensing Board and create a Whole Watershed Fund Partnership which would allow a State Management Team to fund environmental restoration projects.

Stream restoration projects are a critical tool in recovering and preserving functions of streams that have been increasingly damaged over time by development. As we work to find creative solutions to environmental problems, it is important that we place an emphasis on correcting damage that has been caused by land development projects. These projects are vetted by multiple Chesapeake Bay Program Expert Panels to ensure that they will in fact have a meaningful and positive impact on stream health and the environment. By creating a fund to assist with these projects, the State has the opportunity to encourage stream restoration.

SB 969 not only establishes a fund for stream restoration but creates a Stream Restoration Contractors Licensing Board. This board is set to be responsible for licensing and regulating individuals and entities that provide stream restoration contractor services in the State. Frederick County is requesting an amendment to this bill that would add local government representatives appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League. This would help to ensure that local government voices are heard and taken into account when making important decisions that have the potential to impact stream restoration projects.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 969. On behalf of County Executive Fitzwater and the residents of Frederick County, I urge a favorable with amendments report.