

HB1320 ShoreRivers.Favorable.Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Annie Richards

Position: FAV



3/6/24

**Testimony in SUPPORT for HB1320 -
Bay Restoration Fund – Disbursement and Use of Fund**

To Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT**, for **HB1320** on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland’s Eastern Shore with more than 2,500 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

Our rivers are impaired by nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and bacteria. After 40 years of pollution reduction efforts in the Chesapeake Bay, our rivers and our communities are still falling short of the envisioned restoration goals. *The Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report* has highlighted the need to address non-point source pollution in our waterways, of which septic systems are a significant contributor. Pollution from septic systems has a great impact on local water quality in rural areas, such as the Eastern Shore. Outdated and failing septic systems leach nitrogen, phosphorus, and harmful bacteria to tidal and non-tidal waterways—causing pollution and human health concerns. **This bill will increase funding and scope of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to accelerate septic and drain field upgrades in both the Critical Area and non-tidal waterways. HB1320 will:**

- Strategically increase funding to the Septic System Upgrade Program in the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF).
- Include failing systems within 1000 feet of any nitrogen impaired waterway at the same priority level as properties in the Critical Area.

Pollution from septic systems now exceeds nitrogen pollution from our wastewater treatment plants in 17 counties, including Kent and Queen Anne’s County which make up the Chester River watershed. As Chester Riverkeeper, I research and collect water quality data including nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal enterococci bacteria levels and communicate my findings to communities within my watershed. On the Chester, of the 13 sites I monitor for fecal enterococci pollution, 4 failed to meet the threshold for safe water contact *more than half of the times they were tested*. **ShoreRivers has begun tracking the sources of this bacteria pollution by utilizing DNA testing to identify specific animal sources of this bacterial pollution—whether it be human, poultry, canine, or swine. Results from 2022 testing indicate the overwhelming majority of DNA present in the Chester is human, making shoreline septic systems a key source to monitor in the years ahead.** ShoreRivers is a strong proponent for more policies that help to address pollution coming from septic systems. For this reason and others stated above, we urge **a favorable report from this committee, for HB1320.**

Sincerely,

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper on behalf of [ShoreRivers](https://shorerivers.org).

ShoreRivers

Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper

Ben Ford, Miles Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper

HB245 MOWPA Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Edward Harrison

Position: FAV

**In Favor of HB245 -
Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation**

To Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

My name is Eddie Harrison, I am the legislative liaison representing MOWPA (Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association). MOWPA represents all Maryland professionals in the Onsite Industry. We have in our membership: Installers, Pumpers, Engineers, Property Transfer Inspectors, Operation and Maintenance Providers, and Code Officials.

I represent MOWPA as an un-compensated Legislative Liaison, current Vice-President, and former Board President.

My day job is the owner of BAT Onsite, LLC. BAT Onsite, LLC., which is primarily an Operation and Maintenance Provider for automated Onsite Wastewater Systems. Including: Advanced Treatment Units (including BAT), Pump Systems, Mound Systems, Drip Dispersal Systems, and pretty much any Onsite Wastewater System that requires electrical/mechanical operation under 5,000 gallons per day. I am currently servicing over 500 units, covering the whole State of Maryland. I have been working in the Onsite Wastewater Industry as an installer, pumper, designer, property transfer inspector, and operation and maintenance provider since 1984.

Statement

The Onsite Wastewater System (Septic System) is the most expensive appliance in the home.

I am here to support HB245, as it relates to MDE charging fees for well and septic permits when they have taken over the County Health Departments. (p. 5, lines 29 -31 and p. 6, lines 1 – 13) The remainder of this bill relates to subjects that MOWPA has no official opinion.

MOWPA’s membership has witnessed the progressive decline of services in most of the local Health Departments and the Onsite Division of the Maryland Department of the Environment for the past 20 some years. Meanwhile, the complexity of Onsite Wastewater Systems has increased, and the number of failing system repairs has increased. This has significantly increased the workload for these departments while the number of staff members have decreased. We believe that some of these offices are in a crisis mode and may collapse. This is why MDE is asking for this change.

Most local Health Departments are financially supported with State funds. A few Health Departments are self-funded (with no State dollars). Another few are State funded and then subsidized with additional county funds. The counties that fit the last two scenarios are not struggling with the staffing and overload issues to the level that is plaguing the smaller jurisdictions. This is due to larger employment packages in those Counties.

**F. Edward Harrison, Jr. 9608B Fountain School Rd. Union Bridge, MD 21791
410-795-8691**

Back during the early 2000s, budget constraints started a trend of not replacing staff that may leave a position, or seemed to be in no hurry to fill vacant positions. We also started seeing smaller counties hiring staff, provide training and experience, only to see them migrate to larger counties, federal government, private industry, or other employment opportunities for more pay. This trend has increased over the years, to a point where we are in crisis. The current staff work hard to do the best job they can, but some staff have left from the frustration and workload.

For example, when I started working with one local Health Department in the 80s, there was a Health Director, two Deputy Health Directors, four Area Sanitarians (inspecting new systems and repairs) and three "Subdivision" Sanitarians (dealing with new lot percolation tests and plan review for property development). Today in that same County they have one Health Director, one Deputy Health Director, two Area Sanitarians, and one Subdivision Sanitarian trying to accomplish the same job with a larger workload.

Many of the seasoned staff in these departments have moved on. Many of the current staff are young and inexperienced. New hires are increasingly difficult to attract. It is not surprising that MDE will be taking over some of these local departments, but the fact is MDE doesn't have the staff to provide the services that are needed in our profession.

Allowing MDE to charge for permitting in counties they have taken over is a needed step to help MDE perform their services, but the bigger problem that needs to be addressed is acquiring more qualified help for all of these departments.

From MOWPA's point of view, the well and septic departments in the local jurisdictions and in the State of Maryland perform a vital service for Maryland citizens to protect property values, protect public health, and to protect the environment.

I ask for favorable report of **HB245 Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation**

Thank you for your time,

Eddie Harrison

Arundel Rivers Testimony FAV HB1320.pdf

Uploaded by: Elle Bassett

Position: FAV



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www.arundelrivers.org

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1320 – Bay Restoration – Disbursement and Use of Funds

Environment and Transportation Committee
March 6, 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1320**, on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

The Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report has highlighted the need to address non-point source pollution in our waterways. A conventional septic system does not remove much nitrogen, instead delivering about 23.2 pounds of nitrogen per year to groundwater. Even Best Available Technology (BAT) systems only reduce nitrogen loading to about half that of a conventional system. Comparatively, wastewater treatment plants with enhanced nutrient removal can discharge effluent containing less than 3 milligrams per liter of nitrogen. **Pollution from septic systems now exceeds nitrogen pollution from our wastewater treatment plants in 17 counties**, including: Caroline, Carroll, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Fredrick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Annes, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester County. Even in counties where wastewater treatment plants are contributing more nitrogen, septic systems are still having a large impact at the local subwatershed level. For example, **16% of Anne Arundel County's nitrogen pollution comes from septic systems**. This is likely higher in waterways such as the South, West, and Rhode River where there are no large wastewater treatment plants discharging.

Now that we have addressed the larger wastewater treatment plants through Bay Restoration Funds, it is time we begin addressing septic systems as part of the battle to address nitrogen pollution to meet our water quality goals. According to MDE, Maryland has approximately 420,000 septic systems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, 52,000 of which are located in the critical area. **This bill will make BRF funding for septic upgrades more equitable** by expanding the priority funding area beyond critical areas, which is an affluent housing area. Currently, the BRF is prioritizing funding to only about 12% of septic systems in the state.

Finally, given the significance that septic systems now have in nitrogen loading, Arundel Rivers supports securing more funding for septic systems in the BRF by capping the cover crop funding component to \$11.3 million dollars or 40% of the Bay Restoration Septic fund – whichever is less. This is a minor adjustment that will not end funding for the cover crop program but instead add a small increase to septic funding. **Considering new septic systems continue to be installed in the state and agricultural land is**

declining, Arundel Rivers feels that this cap is a reasonable and necessary change needed to be more successful in reducing nitrogen from septics.

House Bill 1320 will reduce nitrogen pollution from septic systems by (1) allowing households with failing septic systems within 1,000 ft of a nitrogen-impaired stream to apply for priority funding for upgrades, and 2) capping the current amount of septic upgrade funding that is being transferred to the annual cover crop program.

Arundel Rivers Federation strongly supports addressing nitrogen pollution from septics to improve our local water quality and address human health concerns and we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB1320.**

Sincerely,



Elle Bassett
South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper
Arundel Rivers Federation

HB1320_CleanWaterAction_FAv.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Ranson

Position: FAV

HB1320: Bay Restoration Fund - Disbursement and Use of Fund
House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 6, 2024

Position: Favorable

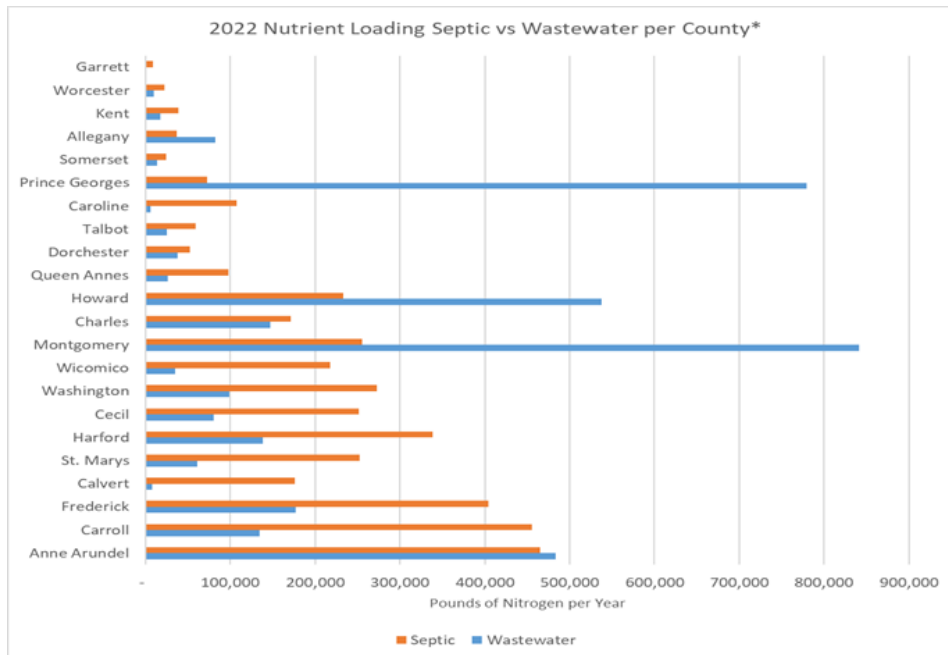
Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports HB1320 to modify the uses and funding of the Bay Restoration Fund to better address failing septic systems and septic system pollution in Maryland.

The Bay Restoration Fund has been a fantastic tool to reduce pollution impairing the Chesapeake Bay, but as our understanding of our watersheds has changed, we need to address more upstream impairments. The BRF is funded through fees Marylanders pay – in most cases \$60 a year. For Marylanders on sewer, this money goes to the sewer side of the BRF. For Marylanders with septic systems or holding tanks, this money goes to the septic side of the BRF. The septic side of the BRF allocates 60% of its money to septic system repair and replacement, and 40% to cover crops.

This year, the Chesapeake Bay Program released the long-awaited Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR). This report reinforced what many groups focused on local water quality have been raising as an issue for almost a decade – that septic systems are an undermanaged source of nitrogen pollution and our existing approach to them has not resulted in the necessary pollution reductions for the Chesapeake Bay and for our local waterways. Nonpoint sources of pollution, like that from septic systems, rely on the behavior of millions of people throughout the watershed.

In seventeen out of twenty-four counties the nitrogen pollution from septic systems now exceeds nitrogen pollution from municipal wastewater treatment plants. In fourteen of Maryland's counties, the nitrogen pollution from septic systems is now double the nitrogen pollution from wastewater treatment plants. (Dataset does not include Baltimore City and County).



On a county basis, septic systems continue to be a significant portion of the nitrogen pollution. In Anne Arundel County, 16% of their nitrogen pollution in county waters is from septic systems.

One way to reduce nitrogen pollution from septic systems is to use Best Available Technology, a class of technologies that the Maryland Department of the Environment lists as reducing sufficient nitrogen. The Bay Restoration Fund provides homeowners with grants to replace their failing and non-conforming septic systems with nitrogen-reducing technology, but this money is quickly exhausted and current prioritization places greatest weight on systems within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, a 1000-foot buffer around tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. This means that our non-tidal counties receive the least benefit from the Bay Restoration Fund.

Cumulative Award by County for Septic BRF

	Capital Program Grant Award	HB12 Admin Grant Award
Allegany Co. Health Dept	\$1,076,016.85	\$235,000.00
Anne Arundel Co. Health Dept	\$37,745,195.56	\$675,000.00
Baltimore Co. Health Dept	\$6,455,656.41	\$629,000.00
Calvert Co. Health Dept	\$19,765,070.39	\$1,040,000.00
Caroline Co. Health Dept	\$5,102,163.46	\$720,000.00
Carroll Co. Health Dept	\$3,528,329.98	\$387,000.00
Cecil Co. Health Dept	\$10,925,958.50	\$499,000.00
Charles Co. Health Dept	\$5,756,137.75	\$569,000.00
Dorchester Co. Health Dept	\$9,571,842.75	\$840,000.00
Frederick Co. Health Dept	\$4,802,157.05	\$596,000.00
Garrett Co. Health Dept	\$1,469,231.28	\$350,000.00
Harford Co. Health Dept	\$5,880,489.27	\$580,000.00

Howard Co. Health Dept	\$2,290,678.25	\$369,000.00
Kent Co. Health Dept	\$7,738,204.59	\$770,000.00
Montgomery County Health Dept	\$3,010,656.50	\$120,000.00
Prince George's Co. Health Dept	\$846,303.16	\$175,000.00
Queen Anne's Co. Health Dept	\$17,344,804.14	\$591,000.00
Somerset Co. Health Dept	\$4,397,360.36	\$573,000.00
St. Mary's Co. Health Dept	\$16,133,129.94	\$1,018,000.00
Talbot Co. Health Dept	\$11,664,295.88	\$836,000.00
Washington Co. Health Dept	\$4,524,981.30	\$359,000.00
Wicomico Co. Health Dept	\$9,255,802.00	\$467,000.00
Worcester Co. Health Dept	\$4,702,907.21	\$231,000.00

* Cumulative since program began

County has Critical Area

To benefit non-tidal counties and target septic system repairs and replacement for nitrogen reductions, HB1320 adds a new prioritization category for systems within a 1000-foot buffer around nitrogen-impaired waterways. Ultimately, we would like non-tidal counties to be able to access more funding to address their failing septic systems that are polluting impaired waterways.

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that since the creation of the Fund in 2004, 40% of the revenue from the septic portion of the Bay Restoration has gone to the cover crop program. The cover crop program has provided great benefit to the state and is one of the few conservation practices that directly benefits farmers who lease their land. Unfortunately, cover crops are not a permanent practice – the Bay Restoration Fund must pay farmers to plant them annually. Since 2004, over \$140 million from the septic portion of the Bay Restoration Fund has gone to plant cover crops.

HB1320 proposes to cap the portion going to cover crops at current levels so new revenues in the septic side of the Bay Restoration Fund can fund septic system repairs and replacement. The septic side of the Bay Restoration Fund needs more funding so more homeowners with failing and non-conforming septic systems can access funding. Failing septic systems damage the environment, public health, and a family's economic wellbeing.

It is also important to note that septic systems are effectively tiny wastewater treatment plants. For homes not on sewer the long-term viability of their septic system is critical for the health of the family, surrounding neighbors, and value of the home. We are especially concerned for homeowners who do not have enough cash reserves or equity in their home to immediately fix a failing septic system once it is discovered, leading to situations where systems are failing and polluting nearby water with untreated sewage. Currently, the Bay Restoration Fund will replace the septic tank with a nitrogen-reducing septic tank but has limited ability to fund drainfields. Drainfields are oftentimes the most expensive part of a septic system, especially for older homes who were built before modern septic system regulations like a reserve drainfield, more stringent percolation tests, better setbacks from waterways, and other characteristics that will make drainfield repair or replacement more expensive.

Currently, the Maryland Department of the Environment uses the income requirements that the Maryland Department of Human Resources uses for energy assistance. This means that a family of four must make less than \$48,564 to qualify for a grant to fix a drainfield. Complicated drainfields, like those needed for small lots, with soils that do not drain appropriately, or have some other limiting condition, may cost more than \$25,000.

Income Eligibility Limits
Effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards	Maximum Gross Yearly Income Standards
1	\$1,982	\$23,784
2	\$2,670	\$32,040
3	\$3,359	\$40,308
4	\$4,047	\$48,564
5	\$4,735	\$56,820
6	\$5,424	\$65,088
7	\$6,112	\$73,344
8	\$6,800	\$81,600
Each Additional Person, Add	\$688	\$8,256

* See web link for updates: <http://dhr.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/>

HB1320 would require MDE to make drainfield assistance more available to more homeowners.

We appreciate our continued conversations with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Department of Agriculture about this bill and look forward to continue working with them, Delegate Stein, and the Committee to better tackle the urgent and significant needs for more funding for septic system repair and replacement.

Thank you,

Emily Ranson
Chesapeake Director
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org

HB245 Back River Pre Cast FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Mathew Geckle

Position: FAV

**Mathew Geckle
Vice President
Back River Pre Cast**

**HB 245 Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and
Regulation
House Environment and Transportation Committee
January 31, 2024**

Position Support with Amendment

I am pleased to support Maryland Department of the Environment's request to charge fees for septic system permits if the agency is the one doing the septic permitting work for a local government.

As this committee knows well both MDE and local governments are understaffed and have been underfunded for too long. This is taking a toll on the remaining staff, resulting in long waits for permits and, importantly, and harming Marylander's health and environment. When MDE must step in and help a local jurisdiction with permitting it needs to be paid for that work through the permitting fees.

This bill takes some steps needed to fund agencies appropriately, and I support these steps wholeheartedly and urge their passage. It is important to note however that this bill is missing two important tools.

1. Allow MDE and local jurisdictions to assess administrative penalties when septic system is not fixed in a timely matter. This provided a swifter and easier course of action to hold polluters accountable than the current civil penalty provisions.
2. Set penalties at a higher rate to be a real deterrent to pollution. Sadly, paying a low fine can be preferable to fixing broken septic systems.

With these additions I urge a favorable report

HB1320 Letter of Support with Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Donald Curtian

Position: FWA

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

HB 1320 MDE OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: UNF



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 1320
Bay Restoration Fund – Disbursement and Use of Fund***

Position: Oppose
Committee: Environment & Transportation
Date: March 6, 2024
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 1320.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1320 would amend the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) Septic funding section of the Environment Article by modifying the allocation and disbursement of fee revenues collected from users of septic systems or holding tanks and deposited into the BRF. Under current law, 40% of BRF septic revenues are used to fund the agricultural cover crops program under MDA. This legislation would cap the amount of funding that is transferred to MDA for the cover crops program at the level that is transferred in FY24. All remaining BRF septic revenues would be transferred to MDE for the septic upgrade program.

The bill would also expand the category of systems that are given first priority for upgrade to include failing or nonconforming systems within 1000 feet of a nitrogen impaired body of water. Currently, the first priority is given to failing systems within the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area and second priority is given to failing systems that are deemed to be a threat to public health or water quality.

Finally, the bill would add to the eligible uses of the BRF septic funding to include the costs of engineering, or design of a septic system with one that utilizes BAT for the removal of nitrogen, and installing or replacing the drainfield of a septic system. Currently, MDE pays for the BAT septic tank, but only pays for drainfield installation or replacement for low-income households.

Position Rationale

MDE understands there may be amendments to address some of the Department’s concerns. However, MDE still has concerns with the first priority of funding as “failing and nonconforming systems located within 1,000 feet of a nitrogen-impaired body of water” language in the bill. Currently, there are no statewide maps that exist that show septic systems’ location in relation to nitrogen impaired bodies of water. MDE does have maps that show nitrogen impaired bodies of water, but these maps do not show the

Contact: Les Knapp, Government Relations Director
Cell: 410-453-2611 (cell), Email: les.knapp@maryland.gov

land area within 1000 feet of these bodies of water or the location of septic systems relative to the bodies of water. New mapping would need to be developed in order to implement this provision of the legislation. Without this mapping, the county health departments/governments would be left to make the determination of whether a septic system is within 1000 feet of a nitrogen impaired body of water without the benefit of a map to reference to make this determination.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 1320.

BaltimoreCounty_INFO_HB1320.pdf

Uploaded by: John Olszewski

Position: INFO



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.

County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **HB1320**

TITLE: Bay Restoration Fund - Disbursement and Use of Fund

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation Committee

DATE: March 6, 2024

Baltimore County provides this Letter of Information to the House Environment and Transportation Committee on **HB 1320 - Bay Restoration Fund - Disbursement and Use of Fund**.

Sixty percent of Bay Restoration Funds (BRF) collected from septic system users is allocated to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to help fund septic system upgrades to advanced technology systems. Baltimore County relies on these funds to address public health challenges from failing septic systems. Yet, because the need is so great, and growing, Baltimore County has run out of funds to support worthwhile projects each of the past several years. As this committee considers how to best address Statewide needs for septic system improvements, Baltimore County requests consideration of a few points.

1. BRF funds may currently be utilized to pay for drainfield replacement for low-income property owners. Consideration should be given to adjusting the current threshold to help more low-income households repair failing systems. Because the BRF was created to reduce nitrogen, only certain types of drainfields should be eligible this financial assistance. For example, sand mounds, at grade systems, drip dispersal and some types of shallow trenches discharge wastewater within the root zone which enables further nitrogen reduction. However, drainfields that discharge 2-3 feet below the ground would not likely further reduce nitrogen and should not qualify.
2. Current bill language could result in what is already inadequate BRF funding being spread over even fewer properties. In addition to reconsideration of BRF funds directed to septic improvements, there should also be consideration of current income thresholds for grant eligibility. The current income threshold for 100% grant funding for Best

Available Technology (BAT) septic systems and up to \$25K for sewer connections is \$300K. Property owners with income above \$300 K are still eligible for 50% grant funding. Perhaps a cap modification and/or graduated scale for financial assistance could allow more homeowners to benefit from BRF assistance.

3.

Baltimore County professional staff have joined with other counties to discuss these, and related, concerns regarding the increasingly complex and often expensive solutions needed to adequately address failing septic systems that can cause both ecological and public health challenges. Current needs overwhelm current funds dedicated to the problem, and only comprehensive assessment of the BRF septic funds, allowable uses, and complementary policy changes will bring about an adequate solution.

For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs, at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.