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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB 732 – Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances – Concentration Limits**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of EEE:

SB 732 builds on the great work this Committee has done on PFAS, a class of toxic chemicals, which causes significant health risks including higher cholesterol, impacts on liver enzymes, decreased vaccine effectiveness in children, increased risk of high blood pressure, increased risk of many cancers, and decreased infant birth weight.

As a body we have:

- banned the use of PFAS in cosmetics¹, firefighting foam, food packaging, rugs and carpets²;
- required the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to prepare a PFAS Action Plan, including minimizing Marylander's exposure to PFAS and identifying, assessing, and cleaning up historical PFAS in the environment³; and,
- required MDE to identify significant industrial users of PFAS, develop monitoring and testing protocols for those significant industrial users, develop PFAS action levels for addressing PFAS contamination from industrial discharge for pretreatment permits, and develop mitigation plans for reducing the presence of PFAS in industrial discharge.⁴

In short, we have banned the use of these chemicals in consumer products and firefighting items to stop them from making us sick and from getting into the environment and gone upstream to determine who is using these chemicals and discharging them into our wastewater treatment plants. SB 732 takes the next step by looking at what is coming out of the wastewater treatment plants and protecting our livestock and agriculture from the land application of high levels of these toxic chemicals.

SB 732 would require testing prior to the biosolids from wastewater treatment plants being land applied and sets a limit of what level of PFOS and PFOA (two of the PFAS class that are widely known to be the most toxic) can be in the biosolids that are land applied.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request your favorable report on SB 732.

¹ HB 643 (2021)

² SB 273/HB 275 (2022)

³ *Id.*

⁴ SB 956/HB 1153 (2024)