

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee and Health and Government Operations

Bill: SB 871 – Department of the Environment – Community Water and Sewerage Systems – Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments

Hearing Date: March 26, 2025

Position: Support With Amendments

RSM supports SB 871 – Department of the Environment – Community Water and Sewerage Systems – Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments with amendments. This bill requires all private and public community water and sewerage services to conduct regular cyber assessments aligned with a zero-trust cybersecurity approach.

RSM supports the premise of SB 871 and agrees that regular cybersecurity assessments are necessary to protect community water and sewerage services. RSM offers the following amendments to strengthen the requirements of the bill.

Amendment 1.

On page 6, following “SERVICES” in line 6 insert “DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT THROUGH DOCUMENTED STRATEGIES, IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES AND REGULAR PROGRESS REPORTING.”

Explanation: Including a commitment in a bill without measurable criteria is ineffective, as there would be no clear way to assess whether an entity is genuinely taking action or simply stating intent without and follow-through.

Amendment 2.

On page 6, in line 7 following (3) insert (I) and following “A” in line 8 insert “SELF-ASSESSED OR QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY. “

Following line 13, insert (II) IF THE MATURITY REVIEW IS A SELF ASSESSMENT, AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE ENTITY SHALL REVIEW AND FORMALLY ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE ASSESSMENT RESULTS.

Explanation: Self-certifications are often insufficient on their own because they lack independent verification and may not be subject to rigorous scrutiny. This language provides an option for an entity to use a third party assessor should funds be available to do so.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at amansfield@maniscanning.com or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.