



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

*Senate Bill 250*

*Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation*

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** April 1, 2025  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 250. The bill addresses numerous programmatic and fiscal challenges MDE faces by making necessary fee and policy adjustments.

**Bill Summary**

The bill proposes changes to MDE's fee structures in various land, air, and water programs. Broadly, Senate Bill 250 addresses staffing and resource shortfalls, permitting capacity, ongoing public health and safety concerns, and compliance with federal law in all three of MDE's policy administrations.

**Position Rationale**

Through this bill, MDE is prioritizing fiscal responsibility and government efficiency to ensure that the Department can meet its statutory obligations, and deliver on its mission to protect people and the environment. Many services the Department provides benefit all Marylanders, and the general fund is a critical and appropriate tool to use to fund statewide activities. But there are also many very specific services that Department experts fulfill for narrower groups of individuals, businesses, and jurisdictions - things like dam inspections, oil transfer licensing, and air emissions permits.

For the last several years, Maryland taxpayers have been subsidizing the costs of necessary department functions that provide valuable services to the regulated community. The provisions in SB 250 leverage user charges to ensure that those who benefit from specific MDE services pay for the services they receive without placing the burden on all Marylanders to subsidize specialized programs. Moreover, the Department has conducted a rigorous analysis of the costs of these services, how much peer agencies and jurisdictions charge users, and the ability of the regulated community to pay for these services.

**Conclusion**

MDE carefully considered each component of the bill and consulted with affected stakeholders. The fee and policy adjustments proposed in SB 250 are vital to improving environmental protection and ensuring the safety of Maryland's residents. The bill will also improve MDE's capacity to provide better customer

service and communication in a number of areas.

Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 250.

**Contact:** Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director  
Cell: 240-548-3321, Email: [jeremy.baker@maryland.gov](mailto:jeremy.baker@maryland.gov)