



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 315 – MES Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

MES supports Senate Bill 315, but with amendments that would conform the Senate Bill to its crossfile, House Bill 344, which this committee passed on March 4, 2025. The amendments add two members of the Maryland General Assembly (one House, one Senate) as nonvoting members of the MES Board of Directors, while keeping intact the provisions that remove the State Treasurer and replace the State Treasurer with the Secretary of Planning.

The Maryland General Assembly passed the MES Reform Act of 2021, which restructured the MES Board into what it is today - an eight member (seven voting) governing body with the following members: the State Treasurer, three private sector members, three public sector members, and the executive director (who serves on the board, but in a non-voting capacity). This new structure took effect on July 1, 2021.

In 2023, Chapter 113 (SB 959), which was considered by this Committee, approved by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Moore, transferred the Maryland 529 Plan to the Office of the State Treasurer. The beleaguered college investment plan program has since consumed a significant amount of the Office of the State Treasurer's time and attention. Consequently, MES worked with the Office of the State Treasurer during the 2024 interim to develop a solution to help relieve the burden on their resources.

The Maryland Department of Planning is well positioned to contribute to MES's governance. Like MES, MDP works hand-in-hand with local jurisdictions to solve

unique problems facing Maryland's counties and municipalities. MDP's mission is very much focused on the preservation of our State's environment and natural resources, which compliments MES's mission and statutory charter. We believe the Secretary of Planning is a natural fit for the MES Board of Directors and will result in a seamless transition.

MES urges the Committee to grant Senate Bill 315 a favorable with amendments report.

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