



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

HEARING DATE: 3/26/2025
BILL NO: SB 315
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation
POSITION: Support with Amendments
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: Maryland Environmental Service - Membership of Board of Directors - Alterations

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 315 would remove the State Treasurer from the Board of Directors (Board) of the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and add the Secretary of Planning or their designee in their place. The Secretary of Planning would then be held to the same rules around their membership as the State Treasurer is currently held to.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports SB 315 with amendments that align the Senate bill with its cross file, HB 344. These amendments, passed by this committee on 3/4, would add two members of the General Assembly - one Delegate and one Senator – to the MES Board of Directors as nonvoting members.

The work of the Maryland Environmental Service shares parallels with the work and focus MDP puts into the Sustainable Growth Subcabinet, sustainable growth practices, human-wellbeing, environmental interests, and the growth of Maryland's economy. MDP also provides extensive assistance to local jurisdictions, ensuring they are benefitting from planning best practices which include the preservation of the environment and natural resources. This work and focus gives the Secretary of Planning a uniquely informed perspective that will strengthen the work of the Board and help ensure a cleaner, healthier environment for all Marylanders. Further, removing the State Treasurer from the Board will allow them and their office to reprioritize other responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is the management of Maryland's 529 College Investment Plan which was transferred to the Office of the State Treasurer under chapter 113 of 2023, and the work in managing this Plan has consumed a large portion of the Office's time and attention.

It is for these reasons that MDP respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report on SB 315.