

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D  
*Legislative District 43*  
Baltimore City and Baltimore County

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Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Education  
Environment

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*Joint Committees*

Senate Chair, Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal  
Bays Critical Areas

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Chair, Baltimore City Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**Written Testimony of Senator Mary Washington**  
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
February 3, 2026

**SUPPORT - Senate Bill 225**  
*Environment - Interjurisdictional Watersheds - Flood Management*

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 225. SB225 is substantially the same as SB42 heard during the 2025 Session, received a favorable report from this committee, and passed out of the Senate as drafted. The bill before the Committee is intended to facilitate coordination among local governments and the state in the management of our waterways. This legislation builds upon existing requirements under Title 5, Water Resources, and DOES NOT require counties to draft new flood management plans or studies. This bill serves a narrow but important purpose: it codifies existing interjurisdictional flood hazard watershed designations so that Maryland's flood management laws clearly and consistently reflect stormwater and flood management across the state.

Additionally, Maryland has recognized that flooding does not stop at municipal or county lines, and that there are significant challenges to the Department's ability to predict and manage watershed-wide impacts and risks or support mitigation or restoration coordination, due in part to fragmented frameworks, uneven resource distribution, localized, outdated, or inconsistent data on flood events. Under its responsibilities in §§ 5-803 and 5-503, the Department of the Environment has designated interjurisdictional watersheds and impacts within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as a part of flood management planning.

SB225 adds the Patapsco River watershed because it plays a crucial role in Maryland's economy, supporting numerous industries and being home to key infrastructure, such as the Port of Baltimore, which is vital for commerce. Additionally, the area surrounding the Patapsco holds a substantial population, making coordinated flood management efforts vital for the safety and well-being of many residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and the last name "Washington" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Mary Washington  
Maryland State Senate, District 43