

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2026

Favorable - HB 146 – Environment – On-Site Wastewater Systems – Requirements for Inspection and Pumping Services and Implementation Dates

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 146 which addresses environmental contamination associated with neglected wastewater systems. This legislation requires that septic systems be inspected and pumped at the time of a property transfer if these services have not been performed in the past three years. The three-year timeline was suggested by the Maryland On-site Wastewater Association. This legislation does provide exceptions for certain transfers such as those between family members if there was an inspection in the previous five years, when the transfer was through a refinancing but with no change in ownership. There is additionally a requirement to report a failed septic system and its repair to the local health department, modeled after the well inspection legislation that this body passed three years ago.

There is clear evidence that failing septic systems contribute to water contamination, particularly E. Coli, but there are currently no requirements to inspect or repair them. This bill formalizes best practices and protects both homeowners, renters and our environment.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton