

# SENATE BILL 135

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4lr1223

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senators Ellis and McKay**

Requested: October 27, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study Funding for the Westernport Wastewater Treatment**  
3 **Facility – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study Funding for the Westernport  
5 Wastewater Treatment Facility; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study  
6 Funding for the Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study Funding for the Westernport Wastewater  
10 Treatment Facility.

11 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

12 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
13 the Senate;

14 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
15 the House;

16 (3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (5) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

19 (6) the Mayor of Westernport;

20 (7) one member from the Board of County Commissioners for Allegany

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 County;

2 (8) the Director of Public Works for Allegany County;

3 (9) the Chair of the Upper Potomac River Commission; and

4 (10) a member of the Upper Potomac River Commission who is not the  
5 Chair.

6 (c) The Chair of the Upper Potomac River Commission shall designate the chair  
7 of the Workgroup.

8 (d) The Department of the Environment shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

9 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

10 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

13 (f) The Workgroup shall:

14 (1) identify and study the existing funding sources that support the  
15 Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility;

16 (2) study whether increased funding could enhance operations at the  
17 Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility;

18 (3) study the funding sources of comparable wastewater treatment  
19 facilities in the mid-Atlantic region;

20 (4) study available and potential federal, State, and local funding sources  
21 for the Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility; and

22 (5) make recommendations regarding:

23 (i) whether additional funding could improve the operations of the  
24 Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility; and

25 (ii) the existing and prospective federal, State, and local funding  
26 sources for the Westernport Wastewater Treatment Facility.

27 (g) On or before December 1, 2024, the Workgroup shall report its findings and  
28 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
29 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this  
3 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no  
4 further force and effect.