

SENATE BILL 418

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2001 Regular Session
1r1160

By: **Senators Frosh, Currie, Green, and Pinsky**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment - Sanitary Sewer Overflows - Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the owner or operator of certain sewer systems or
4 wastewater treatment plants to provide certain reports of certain overflows or
5 treatment plant bypasses within certain periods of time to the Department of
6 the Environment; requiring the Department, in cooperation with certain
7 agencies, to develop procedures for requiring the owner or operator of certain
8 sewer systems or wastewater treatment plants to provide certain public
9 notification of certain sewage overflows; requiring the Department to adopt
10 regulations implementing the requirements of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the reporting of sewer overflows.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Environment
14 Section 9-331.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Environment**

20 9-331.1.

21 (A) (1) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF ANY SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM,
22 COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM, OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SHALL REPORT TO
23 THE DEPARTMENT A SIGNIFICANT SEWER OVERFLOW OR TREATMENT PLANT
24 BYPASS THAT RESULTS IN THE DIRECT OR POTENTIAL DISCHARGE OF RAW OR
25 DILUTED SEWAGE INTO THE SURFACE WATERS OR GROUND WATERS OF THE STATE.

26 (2) THE REPORT SHALL BE MADE BY TELEPHONE AS SOON AS
27 PRACTICABLE BUT NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS AFTER THE TIME THAT THE OPERATOR
28 OR OWNER BECAME AWARE OF THE EVENT.

1 (3) WITHIN 5 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE TELEPHONE NOTIFICATION
2 OF THE EVENT, THE OWNER OR OPERATOR SHALL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH
3 A WRITTEN REPORT REGARDING THE INCIDENT THAT INCLUDES ANY INFORMATION
4 REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (B) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
6 AND MENTAL HYGIENE, THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, AND LOCAL
7 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS, SHALL DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR
8 REQUIRING THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF ANY SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM,
9 COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM, OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO PROVIDE
10 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF A SEWAGE OVERFLOW.

11 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2001.