

SENATE BILL 418

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2001 Regular Session  
1lr1160

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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 6, 2001

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

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~~ ANY SEWER OVERFLOW OR TREATMENT PLANT

1 BYPASS THAT RESULTS IN THE DIRECT OR POTENTIAL DISCHARGE OF RAW OR  
2 DILUTED SEWAGE INTO THE SURFACE WATERS OR GROUND WATERS OF THE STATE.

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

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

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

16       (C)       THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
17 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

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