A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Sewage Treatment Plants – Effluent Discharges – Impacts on Midge Populations

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharged from sewage treatment plants and evaluate whether the effluent impacts certain midge populations; requiring the Department to submit a semiannual report to the General Assembly on or before certain dates each year, beginning in a certain year; and generally relating to effluent discharged from sewage treatment plants and impacts on midge populations.

BY adding to

Article – Environment
Section 9–321.3
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Environment

9–321.3.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) MONITOR EFFLUENT DISCHARGED FROM SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS; AND

(2) EVALUATE WHETHER THE EFFLUENT AND ANY NUTRIENTS IN THE EFFLUENT IMPACTS MIDGE POPULATIONS IN THE SURROUNDING LAND AND WATER
AREAS, INCLUDING WHETHER THE EFFLUENT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GROWTH OF PHYTOPLANKTON.

(B) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1 AND OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.