

# HOUSE BILL 621

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HB 267/21 – ENT

2lr2822

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By: **Delegate Grammer**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sewage Treatment Plants – Effluent Discharges – Monitoring, Evaluation, and**  
3 **Inspection**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to monitor effluent  
5 discharged from sewage treatment plants, evaluate whether the effluent impacts  
6 certain midge populations, and hire an inspector for certain sewage treatment  
7 plants; and generally relating to effluent discharged from sewage treatment plants.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Environment

10 Section 9–321.3

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Environment**

16 **9–321.3.**

17 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

18 **(1) MONITOR EFFLUENT DISCHARGED FROM SEWAGE TREATMENT**  
19 **PLANTS;**

20 **(2) EVALUATE WHETHER THE EFFLUENT AND ANY NUTRIENTS IN THE**  
21 **EFFLUENT IMPACT MIDGE POPULATIONS IN THE SURROUNDING LAND AND WATER**  
22 **AREAS, INCLUDING WHETHER THE EFFLUENT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GROWTH OF**  
23 **PHYTOPLANKTON; AND**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(3) HIRE AN INSPECTOR FOR A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT THAT**  
2 **THE DEPARTMENT FINDS HAS, WITHIN THE LAST 24 MONTHS:**

3           **(I) RELEASED EFFLUENTS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE**  
4 **SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT'S DISCHARGE PERMIT;**

5           **(II) FAILED TO MAINTAIN BASIC OPERATION AND**  
6 **MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT; OR**

7           **(III) FOR A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR WHICH THE**  
8 **DEPARTMENT REQUIRES A WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN, FAILED TO SUBMIT AN**  
9 **UPDATED WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

10          **(B) IF AN INSPECTOR IS HIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS**  
11 **SECTION, THE INSPECTOR SHALL REMAIN ON SITE AT THE SEWAGE TREATMENT**  
12 **PLANT UNTIL:**

13           **(1) DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORTS SHOW THAT THE EFFLUENT**  
14 **RELEASE FROM THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT HAS BEEN WITHIN THE SCOPE OF**  
15 **THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT'S DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR 180 DAYS;**

16           **(2) THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH BASIC**  
17 **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS; AND**

18           **(3) IF A WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN IS REQUIRED BY THE**  
19 **DEPARTMENT, AN UPDATED WASTEWATER CAPACITY PLAN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED**  
20 **TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

21          **(C) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2023, THE**  
22 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
23 **§ 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED**  
24 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

25          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
26 1, 2022.