HOUSE BILL 1068

M3, J2

CF SB 113

2lr2427

By: Delegate Stein
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Local Health Departments, Environmental Health Specialists, and On–Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Systems Standards, Regulations, Applications, and Funding

FOR the purpose of requiring a database or system created by the Department of the Environment for local health departments to be designed in a certain manner; requiring the Department of the Environment to take certain actions regarding applications and plans for the installation of on–site sewage disposal systems; requiring the approving authority for an application for the installation of an on–site sewage disposal system to provide certain information to an applicant under certain circumstances; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of the Environment, to promote certain standards and regulations, develop certain statewide standards, and host certain informational meetings; requiring the Governor, beginning in a certain fiscal year, to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Maryland Department of Health for environmental health specialists; requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations on or before a certain date establishing that a certain requirement regarding subsurface disposal of sewage applies to detached dwellings; and generally relating to environmental health specialists and on–site sewage disposal systems.

BY adding to

Article – Environment
Section 1–408
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Environment
Section 9–1114
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
BY adding to
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–103 and 21–104
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Environment

1–408.

ANY DATABASE OR SYSTEM CREATED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL
HEALTH DEPARTMENTS SHALL BE DESIGNED IN A MANNER THAT:

(1) AUTOMATICALLY FILLS IN RELEVANT DATA THAT HAS ALREADY
BEEN ENTERED FOR OTHER STATE AND LOCAL DATABASES AND SYSTEMS; AND

(2) MAKES THE DATA ENTERED AVAILABLE FOR AUTOMATICALLY
FILLING OTHER STATE AND LOCAL DATABASES AND SYSTEMS.

9–1114.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) CREATE A SYSTEM FOR TRACKING ONLINE THE STATUS OF AN
APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AND ASSOCIATED PERMITS FOR AN
ON–SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM; AND

(2) DEVELOP AND MAKE AVAILABLE STANDARDIZED PERMIT FORMS
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ON–SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.

(B) IF AN APPROVING AUTHORITY DENIES AN APPLICATION FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF AN ON–SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, THE APPROVING
AUTHORITY SHALL PROVIDE THE APPLICANT WITH INFORMATION ON HOW TO
APPEAL THE DECISION.

Article – Health Occupations

21–103.

THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT, SHALL:
(1) Promote consistent standards and regulations under this title;

(2) Develop and make available statewide standards for private environmental health specialists who work with on-site sewage disposal systems; and

(3) Host monthly informational meetings on the interpretation and application of this title and corresponding regulations for local government employees who are or work with environmental health specialists.

For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of $5,000,000 to the Department for addressing wage disparities and staffing shortages of environmental health specialists licensed by the Board.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before October 1, 2023, the Department of the Environment shall adopt regulations establishing that the requirement for a minimum area of 10,000 square feet for subsurface disposal of sewage under COMAR 26.03.03.03 applies to detached dwellings.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.