

# HOUSE BILL 925

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By: Delegate Stein

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Health

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sewage Sludge – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after a certain  
4 date, of sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with total  
5 concentrations of certain regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or  
6 greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or before a certain date, a person to blend  
7 sewage sludge from multiple sources for a certain purpose and subject to certain  
8 regulations and requirements; establishing monitoring protocols for certain per- and  
9 polyfluoroalkyl substances in certain sewage sludge or products containing sewage  
10 sludge; authorizing the establishment of pretreatment standards for certain  
11 industrial users that discharge certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances at levels  
12 that exceed certain action levels; authorizing certain local jurisdictions and  
13 pretreatment authorities to set certain rates and fees for certain industrial users;  
14 encouraging sewage sludge generators to take certain actions with respect to certain  
15 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and generally relating to per- and  
16 polyfluoroalkyl substances and sewage sludge.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

18 Article – Environment

19 Section 9–201(a), (l), and (m) and 9–230

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Environment

24 Section 9–201(k)

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

27 BY adding to

28 Article – Environment

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   Section 9–250  
2                   Annotated Code of Maryland  
3                   (2014 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

4                   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

5                   That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6                   **Article – Environment**

7                   9–201.

8                   (a)       In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

9                   (k)       “Sewage” means[:

10                   (1)       Any human or animal excretion or water–carried domestic waste; or

11                   (2)       A mixture of industrial waste and any of the things in item (1) of this  
12                   subsection] **THE WATER–CARRIED DOMESTIC WASTE FROM RESIDENCES, BUILDINGS,**  
13                   **INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, OR OTHER PLACES.**

14                   (l)       “Sewage sludge” means any thickened liquid, suspension, settled solid, or  
15                   dried residue that a sewage treatment plant extracts from sewage.

16                   (m)       (1)       “Sewage sludge generator” means a person who owns or operates a  
17                   facility that receives and processes sewage in this State or produces sewage sludge to be  
18                   utilized in this State.

19                   (2)       “Sewage sludge generator” includes:

20                   (i)       The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; and

21                   (ii)       The Maryland Environmental Service.

22                   (3)       “Sewage sludge generator” does not include the owner or operator of a  
23                   septic system.

24                   9–230.

25                   (a)       (1)       The Department of the Environment shall adopt regulations to carry  
26                   out this Part III of this subtitle.

27                   (2)       The Department of the Environment may not adopt a regulation or part  
28                   of a regulation that deals with the land application of sewage sludge without the approval  
29                   of the Department of Agriculture.

3 (1) Alternative utilization methods;

## 4 (2) Pathogen control;

5 (3) Advertising requirements for public hearings and public information  
6 meetings;

7 (4) Performance bonds, liability insurance, or other forms of security;

10 (6) Adequate standards for transporting sewage sludge, including  
11 requirements for enclosing or covering sewage sludge during transportation.

12 (c) In addition to the considerations under subsection (b) of this section, in  
13 adopting regulations for the land application of sewage sludge, the Department of the  
14 Environment shall consider:

15 (1) Methods for calculating loading rates that:

16 (i) Will assure nondegradation of the groundwater supply; and

17 (ii) For agricultural land, shall be limited by the nutrient  
18 requirements of crop or cover vegetation, as recommended by the Department of  
19 Agriculture;

20 (2) The crops that are to be grown on land on which sewage sludge may be  
21 applied;

22 (3) The nature of any nearby surface water or groundwater;

23 (4) The character of any affected area;

24 (5) The character of nearby existing or planned land uses and transport  
25 routes;

26 (6) The nearness of the land on which sewage sludge may be applied to  
27 sensitive areas, including flood plains, wetlands, and areas of critical concern;

28 (7) The definitions of:

29 (i) Sewage sludge that is unsuitable for application to agricultural  
30 land;

- (ii) Agricultural land;
- (iii) Marginal land; and
- (iv) Compost;

Acceptable cumulative loading rates, including rates for nitrogen and

Special requirements of land used for producing tobacco; and

Reasonable buffer areas to separate any home or other property from  
age sludge may be applied.

9 (d) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish a mechanism for  
10 determining annual generator's fees.

11 (2) The regulations shall provide for public input into the development of  
12 fee schedules.

13 (3) The fee schedules shall take into account:

14 (i) The volume of sewage sludge generated by a sewage sludge  
15 generator;

16 (ii) The method by which the sewage sludge is utilized;

(iii) The anticipated costs of monitoring and regulating sewage sludge utilization sites;

19 (iv) The anticipated needs of the State's sewage sludge regulation  
20 program; and

21 (v) The potential hazard of the sewage sludge generator's activities  
22 to public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment.

23 9-250.

24 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
25 INDICATED.

- 1 (I) PFOA;
- 2 (II) PFOS; OR
- 3 (III) A MIXTURE OF PFOA AND PFOS.

- 4 (3) "PFOS" MEANS PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONIC ACID.
- 5 (4) "PFOA" MEANS PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID.

6 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO SEWAGE SLUDGE AND PRODUCTS  
7 CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE THAT ARE INTENDED FOR LAND APPLICATION.

8 (C) ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2027:

9 (1) A PERSON MAY NOT APPLY SEWAGE SLUDGE OR A PRODUCT  
10 CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE TO AGRICULTURAL OR MARGINAL LAND IF THE  
11 SEWAGE SLUDGE OR PRODUCT CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE HAS A TOTAL  
12 CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED PFAS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 50 PARTS  
13 PER BILLION; AND

14 (2) IF SEWAGE SLUDGE OR A PRODUCT CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE  
15 HAS A TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED PFAS THAT IS EQUAL TO OR  
16 GREATER THAN 25 PARTS PER BILLION BUT LESS THAN 50 PARTS PER BILLION, A  
17 PERSON MAY APPLY THE SEWAGE SLUDGE OR PRODUCT CONTAINING SEWAGE  
18 SLUDGE TO AGRICULTURAL OR MARGINAL LAND ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
19 SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (D) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2029, SUBJECT TO THE  
21 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT  
22 REGULATIONS:

23 (I) A PERSON MAY BLEND SEWAGE SLUDGE FROM MULTIPLE  
24 SOURCES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED PFAS IN THE  
25 FINAL MATERIAL TO LEVELS BELOW 25 PARTS PER BILLION; AND

26 (II) SEWAGE SLUDGE OR A PRODUCT CONTAINING SEWAGE  
27 SLUDGE BLENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE  
28 SUBJECT TO THE TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES SPECIFIED  
29 IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

6 (II) IF THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED PFAS IN  
7 THE BLENDED PRODUCT IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 25 PARTS PER BILLION,  
8 THE PERSON:

15 (E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE LAND APPLICATION OF  
16 SEWAGE SLUDGE OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE THAT HAVE A TOTAL  
17 CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED PFAS THAT IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 25  
18 PARTS PER BILLION BUT LESS THAN 50 PARTS PER BILLION.

23 (I) AT A RATE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 3 DRY METRIC TONS  
24 PER HECTARE; AND

25 (II) SUBJECT TO:

9 (I) COMPLETE A SOURCE TRACKING STUDY IN ACCORDANCE  
10 WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

11 (II) DEVELOP A MITIGATION PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
12 PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

19 (4) (I) A MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
20 SHALL:



## 4 (7) A SEWAGE SLUDGE GENERATOR:

5 (I) SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF AN APPROVED  
6 MITIGATION PLAN; AND

14 (G) (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
15 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF REGULATED  
16 PFAS IN SEWAGE SLUDGE OR A PRODUCT CONTAINING SEWAGE SLUDGE SHALL BE  
17 DETERMINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
18 THIS SUBSECTION OVER THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

19 (2) EACH SAMPLE SHALL BE TAKEN:

20 (I) DURING NORMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS, AS SPECIFIED  
21 IN DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS;

22 (II) AT THE POINT WHERE SEWAGE SLUDGE LEAVES THE  
23 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; AND

24 (III) AT A FREQUENCY SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN  
25 REGULATION, BUT NOT LESS THAN QUARTERLY.

4 (H) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT, THE  
5 DEPARTMENT AND PRETREATMENT AUTHORITIES MAY ESTABLISH PRETREATMENT  
6 STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS THAT DISCHARGE PER- AND  
7 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AT LEVELS THAT EXCEED ACTION LEVELS  
8 ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR THE PRETREATMENT AUTHORITY UNDER  
9 AN INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM.

20 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

21 (I) ISSUE GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT PUBLICLY OWNED  
22 TREATMENT WORKS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

23 (II) PROVIDE REASONABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS  
24 REQUESTED BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS IN THE EXERCISE OF LOCAL LIMITS  
25 AUTHORITY UNDER THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT.

(4) A LOCAL JURISDICTION OR A PRETREATMENT AUTHORITY MAY SET APPROPRIATE RATES AND FEES FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS, INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A CLASS, THAT ARE DETERMINED TO DISCHARGE PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES INTO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM AT LEVELS THAT NECESSITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES.

1       **(I) ALL SEWAGE SLUDGE GENERATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY**  
2       **POTENTIAL SOURCES OF PFOA AND PFOS LOADING TO THEIR WASTEWATER**  
3       **TREATMENT SYSTEMS AND TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION**  
4       **OF REGULATED PFAS IN THE SEWAGE SLUDGE PRODUCED BY THOSE SYSTEMS.**

5        SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6        October 1, 2026.