



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 11, 2020

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Bill: SB 495 – Bay Restoration Fund – User of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 495. This bill expands the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund's (BRF) Septics Account to include specified costs associated with connecting a property using an on-site sewage disposal system (commonly referred to as a septic system) to an existing municipal wastewater facility that has signed a funding agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and is under construction to achieve, enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) or biological nutrient removal level treatment.

Thus far, Maryland's Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) has upgraded many "major" municipal wastewater treatment plants, and is now upgrading "major-minor" wastewater treatment plants in several medium and smaller cities and towns to biological nutrient removal (BNR) or enhanced nutrient removal (ENR). While this technical upgrade goes a long way towards enhancing the health of the Bay, there are still pockets of septic system users in some of Maryland's smaller towns, predominantly on the Eastern Shore. The ability to utilize funds from the BRF Septics Account to connect a property currently using an aging or failing septic system to a municipal wastewater treatment plant currently undergoing a BNR or ENR upgrade not only improves the health of the Bay, but also takes that many more septic systems offline.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 495 with a favorable report.

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