



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 495

Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports SB 495 as a reasonable and positive change to current allowable uses of the Bay Restoration Fund. This bill would expand the authorizes uses of the Bay Restoration Fund to include costs associated with connecting septic systems to existing municipal wastewater facilities that have signed a funding agreement with the Maryland Department of Environment and are under construction to achieve enhanced nutrient removal or biological nutrient removal grade water treatment.

Connection to municipal wastewater facility poses a potentially significant expense for homeowners. This legislation's expansion of Bay Restoration Fund uses supports expedited connection of septic systems to superior water treatment throughout Maryland. The bill also acknowledges the timing and delays incumbent in the upgrade and connection process.

To speed progress toward the desired end-result – connection of homes on failing septic systems to better nutrient removal technology – this legislation would allow for connections to septic to be started concurrently with upgrades to the receiving wastewater treatment plants. A more rapid transition from failing septic systems to fully treated wastewater will improve water quality in local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation urges a favorable report on SB 495 from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or dmyers@cbf.org

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.