



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 295**

**DATE: January 25, 2021**

**SPONSOR: Delegates Love and Henson**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Water Pollution – Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans – Review and Update**

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to update stormwater management regulations and criteria once every five years to incorporate updated precipitation data. Any stormwater permit issued after January 1, 2022, must incorporate any new requirements and standards established under the updated regulations. The bill also requires MDE to submit a climate load allocation addendum to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, as well as updated two-year milestones, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by December 31, 2025.

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports House Bill 295. This legislation is crucial to safeguard our watersheds. Precipitation data of storms must be updated to ensure proper sizing criteria for holding and filtering stormwater in order to prevent flooding. This past September, Montgomery County had flash floods through Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Kensington, Aspen Hill, and Takoma Park. As a result of these flash floods, the fire department responded to 150 calls in three hours for drivers trapped in the floodwaters. This legislation could help prevent that from happening again in the future. This is also a great step for MDE to work more closely with local jurisdictions to ensure that proper design standards are updated.

For the foregoing reasons, MCDEP supports House Bill 295 and respectfully requests a favorable Committee report.