



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## House Bill 1425

Infrastructure Grants – Federal Investment and Coordination Unit – Establishment

Date: March 15, 2022  
To: Appropriations

Position: Support  
From: Josh Kurtz, Maryland Executive Director

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS HB 1425**. This bill establishes the Federal Investment and Coordination Unit with the Governor's Grants Office to track and efficiently allocate funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA). The legislation creates the position of Chief Infrastructure Officer and details the responsibilities of the position. The bill requires the developments of metrics and goals for the investments.

**The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 will deliver funding to critical programs in Maryland that improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.** The IIJA will deliver funds through loans and competitive and noncompetitive grants that improve critical infrastructure in Maryland. A significant amount of funding will go towards tackling the only growing source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay – stormwater pollution.

**These funds will require additional facilitation for state agencies and local governments and the creation of this office will assist those entities.** These funds, appropriated over the next five fiscal years, will play a key role in helping the State and the region meet the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint. The targeting of these funds to the most efficient and cost-effective projects should be a major focus of the office and can be further spelled out during the development of the metrics for the program success.

The development of this coordinating agency will allow our state to strongly compete for IIJA grants. This office will allow coordination between multiple agencies and levels of government, which will allow officials to identify the most shovel ready and cost-effective projects. This office will offer the technical assistance needed to access grants to improve Maryland infrastructure, which directly results in environmental benefits.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1425.** For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org) and 443.995.8753.

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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 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.