

**JOHNNY MAUTZ**  
*Legislative District 37B*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,  
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 424  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3429 · 301-858-3429  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3429  
Fax 410-841-3523 · 301-858-3523  
Johnny.Mautz@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SPONSOR TESTIMONY  
DELEGATE JOHNNY MAUTZ  
DIST. 37B – CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, TALBOT & WICOMICO COUNTIES

**HB 1311—CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND—AUTHORIZED USES (CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND LOCKBOX ACT OF 2022)**

**Summary**

HB1311 Restricts the use of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (BRF). Specifically, it would prohibit diverting funds to the Clean Water Commerce Account.

**Background**

The BRF was initially created to address point source pollution through upgrading wastewater and septic systems in the Chesapeake Bay region. Since its inception, the BRF has been broadened to address storm water runoff and other environmental concepts to help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Just last year, with the passage of the Tree Solutions Now Act – tens of millions of dollars are scheduled to be diverted from the BRF while many wastewater treatment facilities have not been upgraded to ENR and countless septic users are left stifled with the inability to install state of the art technology or unable to repair existing systems.

**Rationale**

Most of the diversion of BRF funding flows through the Clean Water Commerce Account, which would be prohibited by HB1311.

**Conclusion**

We respectfully request a **favorable report of HB1311** from the Committee and thank you for considering this important legislation.