

Senator Eckardt - Testimony for SB 854.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

ADDIE C. ECKARDT
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
and Wicomico Counties



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3590 · 301-858-3590
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590
Fax 410-841-3087 · 301-858-3087
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
601 Locust Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 854
Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2022

Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 854 - Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization.**

Currently, there is no law in place to allow for the disposal of graywater systems safely and properly for small, seasonal businesses. Businesses located on a dredge site are also prohibited from using graywater systems on their property, resulting in issues with establishing a successful and clean business.

SB854 would authorize the use of a graywater system for handwashing and three-compartment sinks by a public or private building that is located on a former dredge site, or is located in a remote area with minimal public access and operates on a seasonal basis. These tanks would be required to be disposed of in accordance with regulations and guidelines established by the Maryland Department of Health.

Amendments have also been submitted to define and include three-compartment bar **sanitation** sinks to be used with this system as well.

Proper regulations are essential in order to preserve natural waterfronts, especially the Chesapeake Bay, from any further pollution from wastewater. However, this should be done in a way that does not harm our small businesses as well. Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report of SB854.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

Bull Lips Written Testimony PDF.pdf

Uploaded by: John Scheckells

Position: FAV

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 854
Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2022

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of **Senate Bill 854 - Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization.**

This bill will allow a Maryland Landmark Restaurant to continue to do business in an ever changing economic climate. The current holding tank system at Bull Lips Dock Bar has been in place for a number of years and has functioned flawlessly.

Key Points

1. This system is allowed in Government operated facilities but not available to the private sector
2. This system will allow for essential revenue to be earned that is needed to offset ever rising operational cost at the location which would ultimately be closed without it
3. Fresh, potable water is transported to the facility from a licensed, foodservice facility
4. Water is used for handwashing and light barware cleaning
5. Greywater is pumped to, and collected in, plastic holding tanks
6. A licensed, Septic/wastewater service is paid weekly to remove the Greywater from the holding tanks and disposed of in an approved manner. We feel this is a safer and more environmentally friendly method than traditional septic systems.
7. The Greywater is disposed of at a municipal wastewater treatment facility and appropriate fees are paid at that time

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report of SB854.

Best regards,

John Scheckells
The Red Roost Restaurant and Bull Lips Dock Bar

SB 854 LOO EHD MACHO_Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Kenneth Welch

Position: UNF

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



DATE: February 24, 2022
TO: Members, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: SB 854- Graywater systems- Public and Private Buildings- Authorization

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **OPPOSE SB 854** regarding Graywater Systems.

First and foremost, this bill introduces an entirely new definition of graywater that contradicts with the current statute located in Article-Environment §9-1112. The Conference and MACHO believe that the existing definition of graywater in statute is protective of the environment and public health where the proposed definition seems to decrease the scope of what graywater is unnecessarily. Under 9-1112.1(A)(3) the bill's proposed definition of "Graywater System" means a holding tank from a three-compartment sink which is, without question, a kitchen sink and directly conflicts with the definition of graywater provided in statute. Additionally, the definition of "Graywater system" further includes a holding tank used to collect and store potable water. A holding tank used to collect and store potable water is also referred to as a cistern. Cisterns are not safe and adequate water supplies, and they are not part of a graywater system by any commonly held definition. Local health departments also take issue with the lack of a plan to address reuse. The bill defines graywater systems as holding tanks with no clear manner of disposal or **beneficial reuse**. This definition is essentially just describing sewage holding tanks and cisterns, not a graywater system at all.

It appears this bill intends to allow a carve-out for a specific business to be able to operate without complying with current regulations and laws. It is important to understand the impact that this legislation would have on the way that graywater, allowable uses utilizing sewage holding tanks, potable water and food service facilities are safely regulated under the current statutes and regulations in place in Maryland. Approval of this bill would open the door for food service facilities and bars to essentially open anywhere in the state (including made land consisting of dredge spoils) utilizing sewage holding tanks and cisterns for potable water use, which leads to significantly higher risk of waterborne illness.

For these reasons, the Conference and MACHO requests the Committee give SB 854 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Handwritten signature of Kenneth Welch in black ink.

Kenneth Welch, President
Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
240-777-3840
Kenneth.welch@montgomerycountymd.gov

Handwritten signature of Ruth Maiorana in black ink.

Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director
Maryland Association of County Health Officers
410-937-1433
Rmaiora1@jhu.edu