



House Bill 1372- Environment- Green Infrastructure Rebate Program- Establishment

Position: Favorable

Maryland REALTORS® believe the creation of the Green Infrastructure Rebate Program is a smart investment in property owner education on stormwater management practices which will also encourage Maryland property owners to take steps towards achieving state goals under the Clean Water Act. Expanding the same credit to small business and commercial residents, multifamily dwellings and nonprofits strikes the right balance as it allows counties to choose to participate in the program.

Stormwater management is the effort to reduce runoff of rainwater or melted snow into streets, lawns and other sites and the improvement of water quality, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A single home containing 2,000 square feet of external impervious surface can produce 1,246 gallons of stormwater runoff in a typical rainstorm, according to the Penn State College of Agriculture Sciences. Given our proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and blue line streams, as well as the targets set for counties to meet total maximum daily loads (TMDL) of nutrients under the Clean Water Act, incentives for better stormwater property management will be key to meeting state goals.

Prince George's County currently has an active program (Stormwater Stewardship Grants) now which incentivizes homeowners to take actions like planting to slow runoff, rebates for rain barrels, and other actions to control stormwater. In addition to incentivizing homeowners to meet the County's goals under the Clean Water bill, this program also helps local communities combat flooding.

For these reasons, the REALTORS® request a favorable report.

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