



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1372

Environment – Green Infrastructure Rebate Program – Establishment

Date: March 9, 2022

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support/Oppose/SWA

From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1372 which establishes a state-wide green infrastructure rebate program to encourage private property owners to install green infrastructure practices like rain gardens, rain barrels and green roofs. This initiative would help local governments reach state stormwater permits and Bay cleanup goals.

CBF supported provisions in past stormwater utility legislation that established similar rebate programs within the ten Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) jurisdictions. However, after the stormwater utility fee requirement was rescinded, many local governments removed their rebate programs as well. Unfortunately, this places the entire burden of reaching Bay Blueprint goals for stormwater on local governments, which have so far failed to meet impervious surface retrofit requirements through standard stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Stormwater progress has slowed to the point that the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment from that sector is increasing over time and reversing the pollution reduction gains made by wastewater treatment and agricultural BMP's¹.

Marylanders care about their local water quality and the health of the Bay. HB 1372 assists them in providing a helping hand to local governments by installing practices that distribute and absorb rainfall into groundwater on their own private property. This approach helps treat runoff with soil bacteria and fungi, and attenuates flows to local rivers and streams rather than concentrating it into stormwater conveyances that are not sized to handle climate-induced runoff volumes.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1372.

For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

¹ CBF State of the Blueprint, <https://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2022/all/cbf-assesses-the-state-of-the-blueprint-success-in-jeopardy-time-running-out-leadership-mostly-lacking.html>

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