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BILL NO.: **SB 392**

TITLE: **Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program – Establishment**

SPONSOR: **Senator McCray**

COMMITTEE: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 15, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 392 – Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program – Establishment. This legislation would establish the Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program to provide financial assistance to large wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state.

For almost 2 decades, Maryland’s Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) has been successfully deployed to upgrade the largest wastewater treatment facilities in the State to Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) to reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. These ENR facilities often utilize state-of-the-art technology that requires appropriately trained, certified, and compensated staff to operate, maintain, and troubleshoot potential problems and ensure the plants operate as intended. Recognizing that operation and management for these advanced systems is paramount to their operation, the BRF currently authorizes grants to certain WWTPs with ENR to help offset associated costs.

SB 392 builds on these offsets by providing assistance to large WWTPs across the state, giving local jurisdictions support for meeting ongoing, increasingly challenging, and often complex O&M challenges. If passed, this legislation would protect water quality and ensure State and local infrastructure investments meet the needs of residents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 392. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.