

MARLON AMPREY  
Legislative District 40  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2023

### **Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in support of HB 624: Suppliers of Water - Notification Requirements**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Water-borne illness from contaminated drinking water persists as a public health issue despite the existence of technology to test and treat water. A primary reason for this is delayed notification to the public of potential water contamination. Unfortunately, the current public notification requirements in Maryland have resulted in residents not being notified about water contamination for several days. Because every day that goes by between the first indication of water contamination and public notification puts innocent residents at risk for contracting a water-borne illness, it is imperative that Maryland bridges the information gap between suppliers of water and the public in order to prevent illness and death.

The goal of HB624 is to decrease the amount of time between the first sign of water supply contamination and public notification. HB624 requires all suppliers of water to notify the Department of the Environment and residents affected through at least one means of notification upon first signs of water contamination and provide non-collegiate educational institutions, public schools, family child care homes, and child care centers with written notice. Additionally, this bill requires water suppliers that serve more than 3,300 customers to provide notice through at least three means of communication. If there is a confirmed positive test for E. Coli in the water system, this bill requires the water supplier to give notice to the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management in addition to immediately preparing to issue a boil water advisory. This bill also requires that water suppliers (1) provide notice no later than 24 hours after a violation occurs that has the potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure, (2) directly deliver notice to each person served in the system within 30 days of learning of a violation that has the potential for long-term health effects, and (3) provide notice to each person served by the water system within 1 year of learning of all other violations. Lastly, HB624 requires that each community water system and nontransient noncommunity water system test the water for methyl tertiary butyl ether and notify the persons regularly served by the water system and certain institutions if the levels exceed the State advisory level.

An amendment was submitted to add local hospitals to the list of institutions that water suppliers must provide written notice to upon first indication that the water supply is not up to standards.

With these requirements, residents and institutions will be provided adequate notice regarding water quality and safety to protect themselves.

**I urge a favorable report on House Bill 624.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "A".

Delegate Marlon Amprey  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD