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Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
SB 246 – Wicomico County – Sanitary District - Authorization
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the distinguished Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 246 – Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization.

Senate Bill 246 is an important local bill. It simply would allow Wicomico County to create a Wicomico Sanitary District which is the first step for Wicomico County to implement its Water and Sewer Master Plan which was finalized in 2021.

By way of background, Wicomico County has approximately 18,000 septic systems, with many of the residential wells installed prior to 2000 in unconfined aquifers. The County has developed a plan and a map to correct existing septic and sewer system failures in Wicomico County, and to include new infrastructure that may be connected to existing municipal treatment facilities or new centralized systems.

It is my understanding that Wicomico County is the only county in Maryland that does not have a county-wide department dedicated to managing wastewater. Wicomico County needs to be the responsible entity for the County's water and sewer utilities, and this bill provides that authority by establishing the sanitary district.

I also wanted to share that I personally have participated in several Wicomico County meetings with the Maryland Department of Environment and other state officials, county and municipal elected officials and their engineers, developers, realtors and homeowners to work together to address failing septic systems and outdated, at-capacity municipal wastewater treatment plants. I especially want to thank the Wicomico Water and Sewer Committee of the Greater Salisbury Committee for their leadership as we move forward with this legislation, Senate Bill 246, to address the long-standing challenges surrounding water and sewer in Wicomico County.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 246.