

February 23, 2023

Testimony on SB 513

**Environment – Collection and Reporting of Drinking Water and Wastewater Data and Information - Requirements
Education, Energy, and the Environment**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 513, which would increase transparency in the provision of drinking water and wastewater services in Maryland by requiring certain data and information to be reported, and for those reports to be maintained virtually for public access.

Drinking water and wastewater utilities provide core public services to the citizens of Maryland, yet Marylanders have little to no choice in selecting the provider. As it stands, Marylanders also have a very limited availability to access critical data and information regarding the services they are paying for. SB 513 would require water and wastewater utilities to give consumers a clear picture of exactly what they are paying for and hold water utilities accountable to their consumers. The data collected under SB 513 would also enable the State to evaluate how equitable the provision of drinking water and wastewater services is in Maryland, which would ensure that all communities in the State are being provided with the same standard of service.

Common Cause Maryland strongly supports transparency and accessibility at all levels of government and service. SB 513 would work to introduce transparency into the provision of drinking water and wastewater services.

We strongly urge a favorable report.