



Senate Bill 830 – Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Reform (Environmental Health Systems Support Act of 2023)

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports SB 830, to provide greater predictability and consistency in the provision of septic permitting in the state.

The septic approval process and operations of local health departments regarding septic inspections are a growing concern for real estate professionals and their clients. Delays in receiving necessary permits and inspections, as well as changing standards, have led to delays in real estate transactions and even cancellations of contracts to purchase.

In our discussions with these local departments, MDE, and elected officials, one impediment to better operations is a lack of a shared system which tracks all septic activities in the state. It is difficult to determine whether current timeframes are occurring statewide or if they are regional anomalies. SB 830 is a necessary first step to developing that system and providing accountability for timely processing of permit applications and inspections.

We have also learned that in some areas of the state, it is difficult to recruit qualified environmental specialists to carry out this important work. This bill creates an incentive to assist with that issue through a loan assistance repayment program.

Based upon the growing impacts that septic system approvals and inspections are having on the industry, we urge greater coordination and oversight of this process, and ask for your support of SB 830.

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