



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

HB0624

Environment - Suppliers of Water - Notification Requirements

Position: Support with Amendments

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Date: February 22, 2023

From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 624. This bill would change public notification requirements and add certain requirements that are specific to E. coli. HB 624 would do the following:

- Amends the acceptable means of notification to add the following methods: text message, robocall, or “any other means acceptable to the Department.”
- Requires a supplier of water to issue notification through at least three (3) of the approved methods (radio, TV, newspaper, written notice, text message, robocall, or any other means approved by the Department).
- Requires each supplier of water to notify the Department and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) if there is a positive test for E. coli in the system; and
- Upon receipt of notice, the Department and MDEM shall immediately begin preparations for issuing a boil water advisory.

Bill Amendment:

Though MDE can assist with the boil water advisory, the preparation and distribution of such an action is the responsibility of the supplier of water. As such, MDE would like (B) (1) on page 2, lines 4-7 struck from the bill. MDE has met with the sponsor on this amendment and is open to continuing the conversation.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 624.