

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



Reply to:

DATE: 03/30/2023
TO: Members, Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: Senate Bill 830 Environmental Health Specialists and Well and Septic Systems Permitting - Studies (Environmental Health Systems Support Act of 2023)

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference), an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties, is submitting this letter of information to inform this committee of some potential considerations.

The Conference fully supports the proposals to study workforce issues that have not improved since the 2005 Johns Hopkins study titled “Profile of Maryland Environmental Public Health Practice” as well as the viability of the current delegation landscape. However, the amendments to this bill now read that the Department of the Environment shall study the current delegation to the Maryland Department of Health as opposed to contracting for services from a third party. Given that the Department of the Environment is one of two parties to this current arrangement, the Conference believes that such a study should be performed by a third-party institution, such as an institution of higher education, that does not have direct programmatic oversight responsibilities.

The Conference asks that the committee take this into consideration.

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