



House Bill 831 – Environment - Septic Systems - Online Database

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports HB 831, to establish a statewide database for septic permits and to establish a work group on septic issues.

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. HB 831 is a necessary first step to developing that system and providing accountability for timely processing of permit applications and inspections.

REALTORS® greatly appreciate the sponsor's inclusion of the industry into the work group. In addition, that group may find it helpful to either include as a member or routinely consult with those who have experience in designing and installing septic systems in the state.

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 HB 831.

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