



March 03, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 971 – Department of the Environment – Green Roof Grant Program

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed House Bill 971 and would like to provide the following information.

House Bill 971 establishes the “Green Roof Grant Program” at MDE to provide grants for commercial buildings to support the construction of green roofs. Owners of commercial buildings may receive a grant for each building they own. The law/program is in effect for 12 years and sunsets on June 30, 2035. MDE is required to draft and implement regulations and administer the Program. Individual grants are capped at \$75,000 to a single grantee in a fiscal year and are awarded on a first come, first serve basis, subject to the availability of funding.

While the construction of green roofs can be beneficial in reducing building energy use by cooling roofs as well as providing biodiversity, the Department has not received any inquiries regarding the funding of green roofs. MDE currently has the ability to provide funding to counties if requested for stormwater best management practices, including greenroofs. Some local governments have tax credits for new green/LEED commercial buildings – the criteria for these tax credits include green roofs. Howard County and Montgomery County are two examples of counties with these tax credits.

Additionally, there is no source of funding identified in the bill for either the grant program or the implementation of the program.

Thank you for considering the Department’s information regarding this legislation. We will continue to monitor HB 971 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach
Deputy Director
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

cc: The Honorable Eric Ebersole