



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 602 – Environment - State Wetlands - Shoreline Restoration

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

HEARING DATE: February 22, 2023

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 602 - Environment – State Wetlands – Shoreline Restoration**, which makes several changes to standards and requirements related to shoreline restoration projects and projects on a person's property to protect the shoreline against erosion. The bill changes the standard by which a person is eligible for a waiver from the requirements to use nonstructural shoreline stabilization methods for shoreline erosion projects. The bill also establishes the Coastal Resilience and Living Shoreline Restoration Account within the existing Tidal Wetlands Compensation Fund to provide grants for the replacement of structural shoreline stabilization measures with nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures, as specified.

Prince George's County under the Clean Water Act and corresponding stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit has an obligation to control stormwater pollutant discharges by implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) and programs, show a reduction of pollutants pursuant to EPA approved TMDLs, and improve water quality. This bill supports the County's environmental restoration and TMDLs efforts as well as abates property loss and aligns with our NPDES MS4 permit restoration.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 602** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.