



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

***House Bill 478  
Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup***

**Position:** Supports with Amendments  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation Committee  
**Date:** February 17, 2023  
**From:** Gabrielle Leach

---

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 478. This bill would establish the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) workgroup to study issues and factors regarding the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public of certain waterway emergencies; and generally relating to the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup.

The Work Group's membership consists of state legislators, state and local emergency management personnel, and representatives from the Departments of Emergency Management and Information Technology. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

**Bill Amendment:**

MDE also plays an important role in responding to water emergencies that threaten water quality or the environment. Consequently, the Department would request a membership spot on the Workgroup.

On page 1, in line 21, before “and” insert “(7) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary’s designee;”.

On page 2, in line one, strike “(7)” and substitute “(8)”.

The Department has spoken with the sponsor and they agreed to this amendment. For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for House Bill 478.