



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.

*County Executive*

JENNIFER AIOSA  
*Director of Government Affairs*

AMANDA KONTZ CARR  
*Legislative Officer*

WILLIAM J. THORNE  
*Legislative Associate*

**BILL NO.: SB 1174**

**TITLE:** Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup –  
Established

**SPONSOR:** Senator McCray

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**DATE:** April 2, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS Senate Bill 1174 – Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup – Established**, as the necessary next step toward developing an alternative governance model for water and wastewater in the greater Baltimore Metropolitan region.

During the 2023 Session, the Senate and House passed SB880/HB843 creating a Regional Task Force to begin looking at alternatives to the current structures of governance, capital and fiscal planning, and maintenance and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems that serve some two million residents across the Baltimore region. That Task Force met over several months in 2023 and identified several threshold issues that require additional research and evaluation before the Task Force could make an informed set of recommendations.

SB 1174 would create a Work Group, with members appointed as they were under SB880/HB843 in 2023, to continue the important due diligence work needed to identify and implement a regional governance model that best fits the needs of all affected customers and jurisdictions. This Work Group was a key recommendation made in the report of the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force submitted in accordance with Chapter 179 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 23 2023 to the General Assembly, the Governor, the Mayor of Baltimore City and the Baltimore County Executive in January this year.

The amendments we request are those worked on between Baltimore City and County delegation members, staff and leadership. As specified below, these amendments speak to concerns raised at the House hearing and solidify the County Executive's position against privatization of existing City water and wastewater assets. Further, the amendments ensure that

City employees are represented on the Work Group as two of the Mayor’s five appointments and ensures that the Maryland Department of the Environment retain a consultative role in the ongoing work related to these critical systems.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 1174 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs, at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).

Amendments requested to SB 1174, to conform with HB1509:

1. On Page 1, line 16, INSERT after “City”

“, including:

1. One member who represents the current workforce responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water distribution system; and
2. One member from a labor organization that is the exclusive representative for Baltimore City employees;”

2. On Page 4, line 13, INSERT after “Workgroup”

“ ;  
(1)”

And, following “General” INSERT:

“and the Department of the Environment; and

(2) may not consider or make recommendations related to a privately operated regional water governance model.”