



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

***Senate Bill 1174  
Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup – Established***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** April 2, 2024  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 1174 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 1174 would establish the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup to review and analyze various topics related to regional governance models for water and wastewater in the Baltimore region. In consultation with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the workgroup must develop a report of its findings and, by June 30, 2027, submit the report to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore County Executive, the Governor, and the General Assembly. Additionally, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill for fiscal 2026 an appropriation of \$500,000 to hire independent consultants to facilitate the work group's tasks.

**Position Rationale**

MDE is supportive of this legislation as it would continue the work accomplished through the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force. Consistent with the Task Force language, MDE would like to be consulted in the development of the Workgroup's recommendations and report to provide subject matter expertise on the recommended regional water governance model.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 1174.

**Amendment**

On Page 4, in line 13, after "General", insert "and the Maryland Department of the Environment".