



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

HB 1465

Soil Conservation Districts - Small Ponds - Plan Review Fees

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 20, 2024
From: Jeremy D. Baker

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1465. This bill would authorize a soil conservation district to recommend a fee system to cover the cost of reviewing plans for small ponds.

Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) review and approve certain sediment and erosion control plans, as well as small pond plans. Currently, SCDs are able to enact a fee system to cover the cost and review of the sediment and erosion control plans. House Bill 1465 would expand this to allow SCDs to enact a fee system to cover the cost of the review of small pond plans as well. The bill would also create a definition of “small pond” that would allow a small pond owner to be eligible for funding under MDE’s proposed Private Dam Repair Fund (see HB 245).

House Bill 1465 would provide Soil Conservation Districts with the economic means to review small pond plans, thereby reducing the environmental risk associated with small pond design, construction, and maintenance. Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1465.