



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1042

Maryland Agricultural BMP Best in Show Program – Established

Date: February 23, 2024

Position: **Favorable**

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1042, which targets \$5 Million from existing fund sources to maximize the effectiveness of multiple agricultural best management practices to where they will have the most benefit for water quality and other ecosystem services.

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee recently released a report entitled Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response ([CESR](#)) which critically evaluated the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices as insufficient to address pollutant loading to the Bay. HB 1042 addresses the CESR recommendations on focusing investments to shallow water areas that are likely to show a more rapid response and be more visible to human populations. CBF, Shore Rivers, and other partners have been working with Department of Agriculture to accomplish these goals through administrative means but HB 1042 provides needed emphasis and funding clarification that a targeted approach is required.

HB 1042 will support urban agriculture and underserved communities by allocating resources towards implementing Best Management Practices, which are vital for improving environmental quality and reducing pollution in urban areas. By prioritizing BMPs, such as vegetative buffers and urban stormwater management systems, HB 1042 will enhance the health and resilience of these communities while addressing environmental challenges and injustices effectively.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1042.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.