



# ACEC/MD

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES/MARYLAND

Hon. Ben Barnes, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Hon. Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Organization:** The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD)  
**Bill:** HB1347 - State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Alteration and Extension  
**Position:** Support

Chairperson Barnes and Vice-Chair Chang,

The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) is the representative organization for approximately 90 consulting engineering firms of various sizes across the state. These firms play a crucial role in serving both the public and private sectors by actively participating in the design and development of essential infrastructure such as public water and wastewater systems, bridges, highways, building structures, and environmental projects.

Our organization's member firms collectively employ approximately 7,000 individuals statewide, and approximately forty percent of ACEC/MD's membership is comprised of certified small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion within the engineering industry. We respectfully **support** this bill.

This bill increases the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund, from \$1,000,000 each fiscal year to \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The proposed increase in funding aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. It not only reflects a proactive approach to the protection and restoration of our state lakes but also signifies a positive step towards ensuring the long-term health and vitality of Maryland's ecosystems. This additional financial support will empower our member firms to undertake more robust environmental engineering projects, contributing to the overall well-being of our communities.

For any comments, inquiries, or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [cfaison@acecmd.org](mailto:cfaison@acecmd.org).

Respectfully,



Chad Faison  
Executive Director  
ACEC/MD