



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 956

Environment – Water Pollution Control – Protecting State Waters From PFAS
Pollution (Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution Act)

Date: February 20, 2024

To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Position:

Favorable

From:

Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS SB 956** which requires pre-treatment standards for any industrial discharge that includes PFAS and is contributing more than 25,000 gallons per day to a municipal wastewater treatment plant.

This is the most comprehensive bill attempting to address PFAS that has yet been brought before this committee. Per- or Poly-fluoro-alkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of chemicals used in numerous industrial processes that are known to cause various cancers in humans and accumulate up the food chain through exposed aquatic and marine organisms. Further, these chemicals take a long time to break down making them persistent to the point they've been deemed "forever chemicals".

SB 956 requires screening and pre-treatment of industrial discharges to municipal wastewater treatment plants at the point of origin in industrial processes and sets limits on PFAS concentrations that can be diverted to municipal plants. Screening for PFAS using total organic fluorine as proposed in the bill is an efficient method of detecting PFAS without expensive chemical-specific laboratory analysis. The treatment level identified in this bill is reasonable and attainable through the use of organic carbon filtration.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 956.

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.