



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

***House Bill 1509
Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup – Established***

Position: Support with Amendments
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 12, 2024
From: Jeremy Baker

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS HB 1509 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

Bill Summary

House Bill 1509 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.

Amendments

On Page 4, in line 6, strike "shall" and substitute "may".

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

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for House Bill 1509.

Contact: Les Knapp, Government Relations Director
Cell: 410-453-2611 (cell), Email: les.knapp@maryland.gov