



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

***Senate Bill 871***

***Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems - Cybersecurity  
Planning and Assessments***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** February 27, 2025  
**From:** Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 871 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 871 requires community water and sewerage systems develop and implement comprehensive cybersecurity plans. The covered systems must also conduct regular assessments to identify and mitigate potential cyber threats.

**Position Rationale**

Cyberattacks against Maryland's water and sewerage infrastructure can at a minimum disrupt the delivery of core public services and at a maximum threaten public health and safety. Senate Bill 871 is critical for enhancing our security and resilience. By requiring these systems to adopt and maintain robust cybersecurity measures, the bill aims to protect water and sewerage services from potential disruptions caused by cyber incidents. Implementing the bill's provisions will necessitate collaboration among various stakeholders, including state agencies, local governments, and private entities, to ensure effective cybersecurity practices are adopted and maintained across all community water and sewerage systems.

Maryland developed a Cybersecurity Action Plan for Water and Wastewater Systems in 2024 which was reviewed at the federal level by the National Security Council. Senate Bill 871 generally aligns with the recommended actions described by that plan.

MDE is offering the attached amendments to clarify certain notice, assessment, and enforcement requirements. MDE has also consulted with the Maryland Department of Information Technology and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and supports the amendments those agencies are offering.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 871.

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## Amendments

### AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 5, in line 20, strike “SIMILAR TO” and substitute “MODELED AFTER”.

### AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 5, in line 24, strike “EACH” and substitute “EVERY OTHER”.

### AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 6, strike beginning with “STANDARDS” in line 5 down through “UNDER” in line 6; in the same line, strike “(4)”; in the same line, after “subtitle” insert a semicolon; strike line 7 in its entirety; and in line 9, after “DESIGNEE” insert “; AND

**(3) NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH § 9-2705(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE**”.

### AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 6, in line 23, after “TECHNOLOGY” insert “OR OPERATING TECHNOLOGY”.

### AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 7, after line 17 insert:

**“9-2708.**

**A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, ANY REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, OR ANY ORDER ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 9-334 THROUGH 9-344 OF THIS TITLE.”**