



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

*Senate Bill 250*

*Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation*

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** February 11, 2025  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 250 WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill addresses numerous programmatic and fiscal challenges MDE faces by making necessary fee and policy adjustments.

**Bill Summary**

The bill proposes changes to MDE's fee structures in various land, air, and water programs. Broadly, Senate Bill 250 addresses staffing and resource shortfalls, permitting capacity, ongoing public health and safety concerns, and compliance with federal law in all three of MDE's policy administrations.

**Position Rationale**

Through this bill, MDE is prioritizing fiscal responsibility and government efficiency to ensure that the Department can meet its statutory obligations, and deliver on its mission to protect people and the environment. Many services the Department provides benefit all Marylanders, and the general fund is a critical and appropriate tool to use to fund statewide activities. But there are also many very specific services that Department experts fulfill for narrower groups of individuals, businesses, and jurisdictions - things like dam inspections, oil transfer licensing, and air emissions permits.

For the last several years, Maryland taxpayers have been subsidizing the costs of necessary department functions that provide valuable services to the regulated community. The provisions in SB 250 leverage user charges to ensure that those who benefit from specific MDE services pay for the services they receive without placing the burden on all Marylanders to subsidize specialized programs. Moreover, the Department has conducted a rigorous analysis of the costs of these services, how much peer agencies and jurisdictions charge users, and the ability of the regulated community to pay for these services.

**Conclusion**

MDE carefully considered each component of the bill and consulted with affected stakeholders. The fee and policy adjustments proposed in SB 250 are vital to improving environmental protection and ensuring the safety of Maryland's residents. The bill will also improve MDE's capacity to provide better customer service and communication in a number of areas. MDE is submitting amendments to remove five of the initially proposed fee changes to include them in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) for approval in the budget.

Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 250.

(Proposed amendments on next page)

## **SB 250 - MDE Amendments**

### **Purpose Paragraph Amendments**

#### Amendment No. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 10 down through the semicolon in line 12; and strike beginning with “altering” in line 18 down through the semicolon in line 20.

On page 2, strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through the semicolon in line 11; strike beginning with “altering” in line 13 down through the semicolon in line 14; in line 18, strike “, 4-104”; in the same line, strike “,5-203.1”; in line 19, after the first comma, insert “and”; in the same line, strike “, 6-843, and 7-506(a)”; strike in their entirety lines 32 through 36, inclusive; in line 39, after the second comma, insert “and”; and in line 39, strike “, 15-807, 15-815, and 15-816”.

### **Erosion and Sediment Control Responsible Personnel Training Program Certification**

#### Amendment No. 2

On pages 9 through 10, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 22 on page 9 through line 16 on page 10, inclusive.

### **Wetlands and Waterways Tier II High-Quality Watershed Fee**

#### Amendment No. 3

On pages 11 through 18, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 28 on page 11 through line 27 on page 18, inclusive.

### **Rental Property Lead Registration Fee**

#### Amendment No. 4

On pages 29 through 30, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 26 on page 29 through line 30 on page 30, inclusive.

### **Voluntary Cleanup Program**

#### Amendment No. 5

On pages 30 through 32, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 31 on page 30 through line 25 on page 32, inclusive.

### **Non-Coal Surface Mining License**

#### Amendment No. 6

On pages 36 through 41, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 14 on page 36 through line 10 on page 41, inclusive.