CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 265
Environment – Reservoir Augmentation Permit – Establishment

Date:	March 26, 2025	Position:	**FAVORABLE**
To:	Environment & Transportation Committee	From:	Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 265, which creates a program and accompanying permit administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for reservoir augmentation using reclaimed water. CBF encourages the proliferation of technologies that treat wastewater to drinking water standards because they will also reduce nutrient pollution and other contaminants entering the Bay and its tributaries from point sources.

Modern wastewater treatment technologies are capable of producing high-quality effluent that requires little additional treatment to meet drinking water standards and technologies like reverse osmosis and granular activated carbon are among the few shown to be capable of removing persistent fluorinated chemicals, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This is a growing concern as PFAS have been found at levels exceeding the EPA's 2024 Maximum Contaminant Levels in 73 community water systems throughout the state. [1]

Use of reclaimed water contributes to drinking water resiliency, which will only become more important in parts of Maryland due to climate change impacts. Aquifers on the lower eastern shore especially have already seen saltwater intrusion. Further, use of reclaimed water for drinking water has precedent in the state. Notably, there is an existing, successful pilot aquifer recharge from surface water infiltration project in Westminster, MD.

For the reasons stated above, **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 265.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

[1] https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/37f0d4c060e54a2793e241d100bfd0c9