



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1112

PFAS Chemicals - Civil Actions and Prohibition on Consumer Product Sales

Date: March 5, 2025
To: Judiciary Committee
Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**
From: Matt Stegman,
MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1112, which alters the time limitations for bringing an action for wrongful death or personal injury caused by exposure to PFAS chemicals and prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or distribution in Maryland of consumer products containing PFAS chemicals after July 1, 2026.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of chemicals which break down very slowly in the environment and have toxic and carcinogenic effects on biological organisms. Furthermore, PFAS chemicals accumulate in tissues of soft-bodied organisms like worms and clams in the aquatic and marine environment and are further magnified through the food chain to higher order organisms such as fish and crabs. In at least 20 of Maryland's waterways, the Department of the Environment has issued fish consumption advisories for PFAS. Notably, the Department recommends entirely avoiding consuming fish caught in Piscataway Creek due to the extremely high levels of PFAS present in fish tissue¹.

PFAS detection, treatment, and removal technologies continue to evolve for use in drinking water and wastewater treatment, but these methods are expensive, and do not capture all sources of PFAS contamination into Maryland waterways. Furthermore, when PFAS chemicals eventually do break down, the short-chain components that remain are still harmful, and even more difficult to remove from the environment².

HB 1112 appropriately addresses the environmental and human health risks posed by PFAS-containing pesticide application. **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1112.**

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

¹ MDE Fish Consumption Advisories: <https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/WSA/FCA/index.html>

² Donley et al. (2024) Forever pesticides: A growing source of PFAS contamination in the environment. <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp13954>