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SB0686

February 24, 2026

TO: Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 686 - PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports Senate Bill (SB) 686.

SB686 establishes a comprehensive framework to phase out the use of intentionally added per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a wide range of consumer products sold in the State and requires registration and disclosure for products that continue to contain PFAS. Beginning January 1, 2028, the bill prohibits the sale and distribution of several categories of products—including cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, personal care products, juvenile products, and others—if they contain intentionally added PFAS.

The bill directs the Department of the Environment to identify any “currently unavoidable uses” of PFAS by regulation and requires manufacturers of products containing intentionally added PFAS to register those products with the Department, submit disclosure forms, pay registration fees, and conduct testing when required. SB686 also authorizes enforcement through administrative and civil penalties and establishes the Maryland PFAS Chemicals Protection and Remediation Fund to support PFAS monitoring, prevention, remediation, community assistance, research, and enforcement activities across the State.

The BCA owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants—Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant and Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant—which function as passive receivers of PFAS from upstream industrial, commercial, and consumer sources. PFAS chemicals enter the City’s wastewater treatment plants through everyday products identified in SB686, including cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, personal care products, juvenile products, textiles, and other consumer goods that contain intentionally added PFAS. Once these chemicals enter the wastewater system, they are difficult and costly to remove using existing treatment technologies.

By phasing out PFAS in a broad range of products and reducing their use at the source, SB 686 would help lower PFAS levels entering the wastewater stream and, in turn, reduce the operational and financial burden placed on the City’s wastewater treatment plants.

Additionally, the Maryland PFAS Chemicals Protection and Remediation Fund established under SB686 would create a useful financial tool to support public and private entities as they adopt new technologies necessary for effective PFAS remediation. The City of Baltimore anticipates an additional \$10 million per year to address PFAS-related source control, monitoring, and pretreatment activities. A statewide fund that provides loans and grants to assist local governments in upgrading PFAS monitoring, treatment, and remediation technologies would help offset the financial burden and promote effective implementation across jurisdictions.

For these reasons, the City of Baltimore supports a comprehensive, systemwide approach to addressing PFAS and respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB686.

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