



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

---

March 3, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 861 - FIRST READER**

**SHORT TITLE: ENVIRONMENT - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT - AGRICULTURAL LAND**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

---

The Department supports Senate Bill 861 with amendments. Regulating agricultural stormwater runoff directly assists in achieving sediment/nutrient reduction, corresponding to Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

The additional amendments bring the proposed bill into alignment with MDE's ongoing regulatory efforts.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

---

Agritourism is an expanding industry in the state, and stormwater management laws and regulations must keep pace with growth. This bill seeks to bring more consistency to how runoff is managed across all of the State's land use types and increase our ability to meet the State's Chesapeake Bay goals.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

---

The bill will require the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations establishing provisions and a model ordinance that require local governments to regulate stormwater runoff for agriculture.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
[lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov](mailto:lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov) ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)