



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

***Senate Bill 719  
Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** February 24, 2026  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 719.

**Bill Summary**

SB 719 establishes restrictions on the land application of sewage sludge containing certain total concentrations of regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). On or after October 1, 2027, sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge, with total concentrations of two PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) substances equal to or greater than 50 parts per billion, may not be land applied. Sewage sludge with total concentrations of PFAS substances equal to or greater than 25 parts per billion but less than 50 parts per billion may be land applied in accordance with alternate management measures while tracking significant sources of PFAS and implementing an MDE-approved mitigation plan. The biosolids limits established in the bill empower pretreatment authorities, or MDE where it serves as the pretreatment control authority, to establish “local limits” for PFOA/PFOA under the Clean Water Act, and require reductions in regulated PFAS levels from identified significant dischargers into Public Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and activate cost recovery measures for such dischargers.

**Position Rationale**

This bill aligns with Maryland’s goal of limiting the public health, environmental, and economic risks associated with PFAS while providing for the continued beneficial use of land application as a primary management option for sewage sludge. With rising concern regarding PFAS contamination on agricultural land, the bill ensures that PFAS dischargers to wastewater treatment systems - not ratepayers - shoulder the burden of addressing PFAS contamination, while giving confidence to the agricultural community in the safety of biosolids as a fertilizer. The levels and approaches in the bill were developed after meetings with legislative, industry, agricultural, and NGO stakeholders over the past year and are informed by more than 500 biosolids samples evaluated in 2025. The bill empowers a strong approach to address PFAS in sewage sludge, expanding upon the framework established in MDE’s 2024 guidance. While SB 719 incurs a modest fiscal note, the bill will enable the State, wastewater utilities, and farms to avoid much more significant future costs and capacity limitations associated with landfilling sewage sludge and managing contaminated farmland. The Department recommends some technical changes which it understands will be incorporated into sponsor amendments.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 719.

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