



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Senate Bill 686

PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

Date: February 24, 2026

To: Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 686** which requires that the sale and distribution of common products containing added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) be phased out by 2029. The bill also establishes a registration program in the Maryland Department of the Environment, wherein manufacturers must disclose products containing PFAS and pay a registration fee. Fees and fines associated with this program will be deposited in the Maryland PFAS Chemicals Protection and Remediation Fund for efforts to assess, prevent, and remediate PFAS contamination in the state.

There is no safe level of PFAS exposure: studies have shown that exposure to these chemicals, even at low levels, can cause reproductive, developmental, carcinogenic, and other human health effects¹. These chemicals are widespread, long-lasting, and difficult to remove from the environment once introduced. Many PFAS bioaccumulate like mercury and other heavy metals, meaning that relatively low levels at the lowest trophic levels can lead to higher concentration in the tissue of larger organisms.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has conducted extensive water sampling as well as fish tissue analysis to understand potential threats to the health of Maryland residents, but as long as the state continues to allow the sale and distribution of products that contain PFAS in the state, these chemicals will continue to build up in our water and soil. Personal care products like soap, shampoo, and toothpaste are washed down drains to wastewater treatment plants, which cannot remove PFAS with standard technologies, leaving us with contaminated effluent and sewage sludge. This bill, in concert with SB 719 which limits the application of sewage sludge containing PFAS on farm fields, creates a critical two-pronged approach to stop circulating these “forever” chemicals through Maryland’s food, drinking water, and ecosystems.

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report on SB 686.

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

¹ [EPA: Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS](#)