



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 925

Sewage Sludge – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation

Date: February 25, 2026

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire,
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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 925** which regulates and restricts the use of sewage sludge containing certain concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), specifically perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which are already regulated in drinking water.

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. 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.

Wastewater treatment facilities collect PFAS chemicals from a variety of products used by Maryland residents every day, including shampoo, makeup, and cleaning products. Unlike many other contaminants, PFAS cannot be removed from wastewater by conventional treatment processes, meaning that these chemicals remain in liquid effluent and processed solids left at the end of treatment. These solids, otherwise suitable for agricultural purposes after treatment, can result in high concentrations of PFAS at the application site.

The delivery pathway of these chemicals via agricultural practices is of particular concern, as field runoff flows from agricultural ditches and drainage structures to surface waters without filtration. Therefore, testing and regulating application of sewage sludge is a critical step towards keeping PFAS out of Maryland's waterways and food systems. Paired with PFAS product phase-outs required by HB 1022, HB 925 will help stop the continued deposition of these forever chemicals in Maryland's soil and water.

Finally, with similar legislation under consideration in Virginia's General Assembly this year, it is even more important that these regulations be instituted in the state to ensure that contaminated sewage sludge from Virginia does not make its way to Maryland's agricultural lands and waterways.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 925.

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

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.