



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

April 2, 2026

BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 861 - THIRD READER

SHORT TITLE: ENVIRONMENT - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT - AGRICULTURAL LAND

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

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

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.

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