

Re: Need input on HB 1444

From: Eddie Harrison (rdsefe@aol.com)

To: robpowell781@verizon.net

Cc: rdsefe@aol.com

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 10:40 PM EST

Rob,

Very good points. You should make up a statement and put that all down (With exception of the MDE part). I will be sending out instructions on how to submit testimony later in the week. Make sure you qualify yourself. MOWPA will maintain a neutral position, but WILL submit written testimony. You can mention your experience with MOWPA.

Your input on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Eddie

On Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 10:30:33 PM EST, James Powell <robpowell781@verizon.net> wrote:

Eddie,

My read is that this would exclude Innovative osds repairs where drip dispersal and/or sand mounds are proposed.

- there are no definitions of financial hardship - makes this extremely subjective
- waiver can be renewed indefinitely - depending on the influence and/or local whims of the commissioners; this could present a free pass in perpetuity
- waivers could be considered for existing properties where the osds is failing to groundwater, less than 4' to bedrock/groundwater, periodic surface failures, etc., just because it got too expensive? As an ex-regulator and an environmental consultant - I have a big problem with this. Although this does point out the age old problem of what do you do with an owner that can't afford to fix the failing osds with an innovative system. Times in the past either the county didn't enforce it and let the problem fade from view or they made them put in a holding tank; then played Pontius Pilate, wash their hands of the matter and walk away? The real problem is the lack of accessible grant funding for full replacement for the tough sites where the owner's can't afford a 70k repair
- I can't picture MDE rolling over on this unless the politics get too hot to handle

jus an ole' man's thoughts

rob

On Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 10:07:42 AM EST, Eddie Harrison <rdsefe@aol.com> wrote:

Rob and Ryan,

Sorry for not including you guys on the first email. Sent this out the other day. Hard to think of everyone on the fly. Let me know any feed back you may have.

My intention is to listen to feedback from our active members and then sending in written testimony from MOWPA that will be "Information only". Our membership has not been polled for their thoughts and I feel it would come back mixed. Also, this is something we haven't discussed at length to have strong opinion from MOWPA. But, I do feel that the committee needs to see the MOWPA letterhead come across their desk to keep us relevant. I encourage you to send me your thoughts (or call) and, if you like, send in your own written testimony. I will be sending out our final position and instructions for everyone to send in testimony later this week. All written testimony will have to be submitted on Monday, March 9th (Same day as Board meeting) between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm sharp.

Eddie

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Eddie Harrison <rdsefe@aol.com>

To: Andy Lazur <lazur@umd.edu>; Ryan Nagi <ryan@spekinpections.com>; douglas@eprestonjr.com <douglas@eprestonjr.com>; Dufour Doug <doug@eprestonjr.com>; Amy Hart <ahart@howardcountymd.gov>; Gene Von Gunten <gvongunten@comcast.net>; Bob Johnson <bjohnson@atlanticsolutionsltd.com>; Rob Sell <rsell@mccrone-engineering.com>; bradrice1219@icloud.com <bradrice1219@icloud.com>; Rachel Flatley <info@mowpa.org>; Kevin Koepenick <kkoepenick@baltimorecountymd.gov>; Nancy Mayer <mbi1959@yahoo.com>; Dwayne Jones <manager@jonespumpservice.com>; Dave Duree <dureedt@gmail.com>; Carissa Alexander <carissa@mayerprecast.com>

Cc: Me <rdsefe@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:40:32 AM EST

Subject: Need input on HB 1444

All,

I would like you all to click the link in this email in regard to **HB 1444 - Washington County - On-Site Sewage Disposal System Regulations - Exemptions**

This Bill requires the Health Department to consider repairing defective components of an Onsite System over complete system replacements. (Most Counties I work with already do this)

This bill is for Washington County ONLY. Washington County is a Commissioner for of local government, so they have to run all local laws through the Legislature. That being said, they are trying to resolve a local issue. The Bill is a sponsored by the entire Washington County Delegation, which means the local Commissioners have voted to move this forward. I have not gotten the "Back story" as of yet. Will reach back out when I do.

This is the link to the Bill:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2026RS/bills/hb/hb1444F.pdf>

Please let me know what you all think to enable me to craft a response.

Eddie