



## House Bill 204

### *Drinking Water – Regulation – Control and Prevention of Waterborne Disease*

Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: January 29, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County opposes House Bill 204, which would place a variety of costly mandates on public water systems.

Costs to implement this bill in Worcester County for multiple county and municipal public water systems are conservatively estimated at close to \$100,000. In addition, the county would have to increase notification procedures, train staff, perform additional recordkeeping and respond to more inquiries from the Maryland Departments of Health and Environment.

It is questionable whether the measures required by this bill would have a positive impact on public health. The few incidents Worcester County has experienced with Legionnaire's Disease have occurred behind the water meter within privately owned buildings. Testing at the public water system level would not have helped in those cases. A better way to improve public health impacts would be making broader changes at the building management level. We are also concerned that our water systems would face compliance risks from disinfection byproducts due to the addition of chemicals needed to provide the required residual chlorine levels.

We urge you to provide an unfavorable report on House Bill 204. Thank you.