



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 1196
Environment - Mobile Home Parks - Water Quality Testing***

Position: Support with Amendments
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 4, 2026
From: Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1196 **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1196 requires MDE to develop a mobile home park water quality testing program for Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels and aesthetic/non-health based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) (for issues such as water color, odor, or taste) by January 1, 2027.

Position Rationale

As introduced, the bill imposes substantial new requirements on MDE with an estimated fiscal cost for new personnel alone of approximately \$1.4 million annually once the bill is fully implemented. This is based on an estimated number of mobile home parks of 314, although this estimate is likely low. The bill requires MDE to undertake the following activities for each of the 314 parks: staff interviews with residents; develop a sampling plan based on prioritization factors; collect an additional 135 samples every year; track results in a new database; consider and approve remediation plans; evaluate and approve use of filters for various contaminants; track compliance and pursue penalties for non-compliance; and increase routine compliance activities by 20%. Since the majority of the scope of work exceeds the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements, general funds are required to accomplish the workload.

MDE understands the bill is overbroad as introduced and is working on amendments with the bill sponsor that would require MDE to conduct a feasibility study on creating enforceable SMCLs for community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems. The study would look at: (1) current secondary contaminant levels in those public water systems; (2) Maryland's current approach to SMCLs; (3) how other states regulate SMCLs; (4) the benefits and challenges of MDE creating enforceable SMCLs; and (5) potential costs borne by covered public water systems. The study would also include recommendations for potential development and enforcement of SMCLs in Maryland. MDE's Water Supply Program believes that it can conduct the study with existing resources, eliminating the bill's fiscal note.

Accordingly, MDE requests the Committee give HB 1196 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.

[AMENDMENTS ATTACHED]

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MDE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HB 1196

MDE recommends striking the bill in its entirety and replacing it with the following study requirements.

Environment - Water Quality Testing - Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels - Feasibility Study

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct a feasibility study on developing enforceable standards for certain secondary maximum contaminant levels at certain public water systems; specifying the contents of the study; and generally relating to a feasibility study for certain secondary maximum contaminant levels at certain public water systems.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

(a) The Maryland Department of the Environment shall conduct a feasibility study on developing enforceable standards for secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCLs) to address discolored water, taste, and odor at community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems.

(b) The study shall include:

(1) an overview of the presence and concentrations, if known, of secondary contaminants in community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems;

(2) a discussion of the Department's current approach to address secondary maximum contaminant levels;

(3) a summary of secondary maximum contaminant level regulatory approaches in other states;

(4) an evaluation of the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of implementing enforceable secondary maximum contaminant levels in Maryland;

(5) an evaluation of potential costs borne by community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems to comply with enforceable secondary maximum contaminant levels; and

(6) recommendations for potential development and implementation of enforceable secondary maximum contaminant levels in Maryland.

(c) As part of the study the Department shall consult with relevant stakeholders including:

(1) community and nontransient noncommunity public water system owners and operators;

(2) community or nonprofit organizations that represent affected residents,

- (3) the Maryland Rural Water Association; and
 - (4) any other individual or person the Department believes is relevant to consult.
- (d) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and one month, at the end of July 31, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.