



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB1315

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski

March 6, 2026 – Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

What the Bill Does: The purpose of HB1315 is for the requiring of the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, to conduct a study of technologies installed or used on vessels to capture or remove microplastic particles in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and generally relating to microplastic particle removal technologies. By having the Department of the Environment in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, to conduct a comprehensive study of technologies installed or used on vessels to capture and remove microplastic particles and pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. While having both departments identify, describe, and categorize technologies that are installed or used on the vessels to capture or remove microscopic particles and pollution. Which includes microplastic collecting devices that filter and capture the plastics, that can be either a floating or stationary system and can most effectively collect the plastic particles. And or any emerging or experimental technologies designed for installation or use on vessels to capture or remove microplastic particles.

The Department of Environment shall review research, pilot projects, and technology inventories on microplastic removal in marine and estuarine waters, including those relating to technologies installed on or used with vessels and corresponding performance data also providing access to opportunities for the state to host or participate in pilot or demonstrations projects to test different technologies installed or used of vessels to capture and remove microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay.

On or before December 1, 2027, the Department of the Environment shall submit an interim report to the governor and, in accordance with 2-1257 of the state Government Article, the General Assembly that includes, a description of all technologies reviewed and preliminary findings on performance and potential environmental benefits, an initial assessment of practicability, costs, and stakeholder input and the remainder of the study, and lastly identification of questions and data needs to be addressed in the remainder of the study.

On or before July 1, 2028, the Department of the Environment shall submit a final report to the governor and, in accordance with 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly that includes an analysis of the effect of technologies installed or used on vessels on microplastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, accepting recommendations for policy changes, pilot programs, funding mechanisms, or incentives to support the use of technologies installed or used on vessels to capture and remove microplastic particles where appropriate, and any recommended statutory or regulatory changes necessary to integrate technologies installed or

used on vessels to capture or remove microplastic particles into State water quality and Chesapeake Bay restoration programs.

Why the Bill is Important:

HB1315 Is a very important bill for many different reasons such as, preserving and keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean and free of microplastic particles and pollution, helping to farther advance technologies and or devices/machines that are used to protect and restore marine life, and to get as much knowledge as possible, to improve and strengthen all the devices listed above.

I request a favorable report on HB1315.