



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

House Bill 1315

Department of the Environment - Vessel-Based Microplastic Particle Removal Technologies - Study

Position: Informational
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 6, 2026
From: Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on HB 1315.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1315 requires MDE, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, to conduct a comprehensive study of technologies that can be installed or used on a vessel to capture microplastic particles and assess their potential to reduce microplastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The bill requires an interim report to be completed by December 1, 2027, and a final report by July 1, 2028.

Key Points

MDE lacks the technical expertise to conduct the required study and would need to contract with an academic or scientific institution to complete the work by the bill's deadlines. The study's requirements are very detailed and include extensive stakeholder outreach. MDE estimates a cost of \$600,000 and two positions in order to comply with the bill. MDE believes that this study is more appropriate for an academic or private institution with the appropriate knowledge and resources rather than MDE and the Department of Natural Resources.

MDE appreciates the opportunity to offer this **INFORMATIONAL** testimony for HB 1315 and is available for questions.