



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 705

State Government - Attorney General - Office of the Attorney General Enforcement Recovery Fund - Establishment

Date: March 3, 2026

To: Government, Labor, & Elections Committee

Position: FAVORABLE W/ AMENDMENT

From: Matt Stegman,
MD Staff Attorney

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 705 with amendment.** The bill establishes the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Enforcement Recovery Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund and requires that the Fund be used only to support the consumer protection, antitrust, and securities enforcement activities of OAG. The Attorney General would be able to direct a portion of eligible recoveries into the fund for professional development, training, and other activities related to OAG's enforcement activities.

The Office of the Attorney General does meaningful work enforcing laws and regulations that protect Marylanders in a number of different facets. One small, but important, unit within OAG is the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit. This unit works with our environmental regulators to handle cases involving illegal pollution discharges, illegal dumping, lead paint law fraud, poaching offenses and other serious violations. We respectfully ask the committee to consider adding the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit to the units that can be supported by the fund created in this bill.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on HB 705. For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.