Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Board of Environmental Health Specialists
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

2026 SESSION
POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 274

COMMITTEE: HEALTH

POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as written, would continue the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists (the "Board") in accordance with the provision of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) extending the Board's existence until July 1, 2032.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports HB 274 and currently licenses 527 Environmental Health Specialists, 77 Environmental Health Specialists-in-Training, and has certified 129 other individuals as eligible to work in the field. The passage of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board's mission to license qualified individuals, verify credentials, adopt standards of practice, confirm continuing education requirements, and investigate and resolve complaints. The Board's staff is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Board and the coordination of administrative activities with other government agencies. The Board shares its financial, legislative and regulatory, information technology, and investigative staff with other Health Occupation Boards under the Maryland Department of Health and is general funded

A licensed Environmental Health Specialist professional is on the front lines and plays a key role in protecting public health by helping to maintain a safe and sustainable environment. Key program areas include food safety and security, safety and oversight of community and private well and septic systems, oversight of public pools and spas, water quality at bathing beaches, investigation of rabies cases and possibly other disease vectors, inspection of youth camps, and other issues pertaining to environmental health as they arise.

For these reasons, the Board supports HB 274 and requests a favorable report. If you require additional information, please contact Leigh Broderick, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Environmental Health Specialists at leigh.broderick1@maryland.gov or (410) 764-3512; or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at Lillian.reese@maryland.gov, or 443-794-4757.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.