

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: SENATE BILL 922

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: Bay Restoration Fund – Septic Systems – Nitrogen Removal Projects

BILL ANALYSIS: The Bill would require local governments administering the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) for upgrading septic systems to approve additions and accessory structures to homeowners receiving BRF grants.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: MDE supports SB 922 with amendments. The Department opposes any restrictions placed on properties based on acceptance of a grant for upgrading a septic system. Any such restrictions inhibit upgrading septic systems which in turn inhibit the State's ability to meet water quality standards, however the Bill as written would require any proposal for an addition to a home or a new structure to be approved by the local government. The Bill should be revised so that the proposed additions are evaluated in the same manner as if no grant was involved.

BY: The Maryland Department of the Environment

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 922

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Page three lines 6 through 10 should be changed to read:

(II) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT PROHIBIT A HOMEOWNER THAT RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING FOR A PROJECT RELATED TO THE REMOVAL OF NITROGEN FROM ONSITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS FROM PLACING AN ADDITION OR ACCESSORY STRUCTURE ON THE HOMEOWNER'S DWELLING UNIT **IF ALL STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS NOT RELATED TO GRANT FUNDING ARE MET.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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