

SENATE BILL 835

M3

(4lr2432)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Energy, and the Environment/Environment and Transportation* —

Introduced by **Senator Hester**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Delegated Authorities – Well and Septic Program Permits**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a local health department or county government with certain
4 delegated authority to submit, on or before a certain date, a schedule of review times
5 for certain well and septic program permits to the Department of the Environment
6 for approval; requiring a local health department or county government to submit
7 well and septic program permit data to the Department for review at a certain
8 frequency under certain circumstances; and generally relating to local health
9 departments or county governments and well and septic program permits.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Environment

12 Section 9–1114

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Environment**

4 **9–1114.**

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
6 INDICATED.

7 (2) “DELEGATED AUTHORITY” MEANS A LOCAL HEALTH
8 DEPARTMENT OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS
9 DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER A WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM.

10 (3) “WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH
11 A DELEGATED AUTHORITY ISSUES PERMITS FOR:

12 (I) THE INSTALLATION OF ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL
13 SYSTEMS; AND

14 (II) THE CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS.

15 (B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, A DELEGATED AUTHORITY SHALL
16 SUBMIT A SCHEDULE OF REVIEW TIMES FOR WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM PERMITS
17 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL.

18 (C) BEGINNING 3 MONTHS AFTER THE SCHEDULE SUBMITTED IN
19 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS APPROVED BY THE
20 DEPARTMENT, AND EVERY 3 MONTHS THEREAFTER, A DELEGATED AUTHORITY
21 SHALL SUBMIT WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM PERMIT DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT
22 FOR REVIEW.

23 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

24 ~~(a) (1) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with the~~
25 ~~Maryland Association of County Health Officers, the Maryland Conference of Local~~
26 ~~Environmental Health Directors, the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland~~
27 ~~Association of Counties, and the Department of Information Technology, shall study and~~
28 ~~make recommendations on modernizing IT systems to connect local health department~~
29 ~~environmental programs, local governments, and the Department of the Environment in~~
30 ~~relation to well and septic program permits.~~

31 ~~(2) The study shall address:~~

1 ~~(i) the backend interoperability of existing systems that allow local~~
2 ~~health departments or local governments to share relevant data with the Department of~~
3 ~~the Environment;~~

4 ~~(ii) the optimal design of a modernized system that includes~~
5 ~~front-facing dashboards to enable members of the public and State agencies to track permit~~
6 ~~processing status;~~

7 ~~(iii) the potential timeline for system modernization;~~

8 ~~(iv) the estimated costs of system modernization; and~~

9 ~~(v) the availability of federal funds to match State investment.~~

10 ~~(b) (1) On or before December 1, 2024, the Department of the Environment~~
11 ~~shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for legislative or~~
12 ~~administrative changes to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State~~
13 ~~Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment~~
14 ~~and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.~~

15 ~~(2) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department of the Environment~~
16 ~~shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for legislative or~~
17 ~~administrative changes to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State~~
18 ~~Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment~~
19 ~~and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.~~

20 SECTION ~~2~~, ~~2~~, 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 June 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.