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**HB318 Environment – Onsite Wastewater Services – Regulations**  
**February 9, 2022**

RECOMMENDATION – FAVORABLE

**My Background:** On-site sewage disposal system designer/consultant since 2014. Employed by Baltimore County Department of the Environment from 1977 – 2014 in capacity of Supervisor, Soil Evaluation Section, Groundwater Management

**Narrative:** This bill seeks to establish an Environmental Board which, among other responsibilities, would establish minimum standards for professionals working in the field of on-site wastewater. This would include aspects of operation/maintenance (O & M), design, and installation of onsite wastewater systems.

- The type of onsite systems being installed today are varied and more complex than those installed in previous years. Soil conditions, site characteristics and topography sometimes dictate installation of engineered systems that are much more complex than the standard systems of prior times. Designing, servicing, and installing such systems dictate the need for more precise procedures to be employed in providing the above services.
- Maryland Department of Environment and local health department regulations provide basic regulations for installation of systems but not for servicing and design of such systems.
- Establishment of a Board of On-site Wastewater Professionals would provide the consumer (property owners) with a level of protection, ensuring that the professional engaged in design, O & M, and installation of the on-site system, is not only licensed, but has the necessary training, experience, and certification for the specific type of system they are working on; something that has been provided for sand mounds and at-grade systems but not for other detailed engineered systems.
- It would also provide a means of ensuring the on-site contractors are operating in a professional manner and would establish enforceable penalties for those few individuals who continue to operate in a sub-standard/inadequate manner. The real winners here are the property owners