



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 273

Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements (George “Walter” Taylor Act)

Date: February 2, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 273 which bans or restricts sale and distribution of certain products containing PFAS intentionally added for its flame retardant properties including firefighting foam, carpet and food packaging. The bill also establishes containment and disposal criteria for firefighting foam, where necessary, to protect waters of the state and groundwater.

CBF continues to follow the science of emerging chemicals like PFAS realizing its widespread use, potential environmental and human health hazards, and particularly, its persistence in the environment, the quality that has led to the moniker “Forever Chemical.” As in the past with organohaline pesticides, industrial solvents, and Polychlorinated Bipheyls (PCBs), these legacy chemicals create costly cleanup requirements, sometimes leading to hurdles for property transfers and creating decades-long risks to the surrounding environment and to human health.

PFAS health effects in both humans and other animals include reproductive, developmental, endocrine and cardiovascular diseases.¹ US Geologic Survey scientists have discovered PFAS in fish tissues throughout the bay watershed.² The provisions of this bill are consistent with EPA’s emerging PFAS Action Plan.³

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report on SB 273. For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

¹ [7 Human and Ecological Health Effects of select PFAS](#), Interstate Technology Regulatory Council, PFAS – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

² Swartwood, Hillary, [Tracing the “Forever Chemical” in the Chesapeake](#), Chesapeake Bay Program, October 27, 2020.

³ [EPA’s PFAS Action Plan: A Summary of Key Actions](#), US EPA, 2019 Factsheet.

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