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The Maryland House of Delegates

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Delegate Stein Testimony in Support of House Bill 714 – Bay Restoration Fund – Intended Use Plans and Privately Owned Wastewater Facilities

This bill deals with the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) and provides clarity as to when privately owned wastewater facilities can be funded under BRF.

The bill defines a privately owned wastewater facility as a wastewater facility that is “owned by a private entity and PROVIDES WASTEWATER TREATMENT OR DISPOSAL SERVICES TO MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS.”

It also says that MDE cannot provide funding to a privately owned wastewater facility that, within the past two years, had not complied with its discharge permit, with the following exceptions: the owner of the facility lacks the financial capacity to upgrade the facility in order to comply with its discharge permit; the facility is independently owned; and the owner is not a subsidiary of another business.

The bill also adds reporting requirements related to the funding of privately owned wastewater facilities and intended uses of the Water Quality Fund.