



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - Senate Bill 273 - Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements (George "Walter" Taylor Act)
Health and Government Operations Committee
March 30, 2022

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 273 - Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements (George "Walter" Taylor Act)**. I would like to thank Senator Elfreth for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are often termed "forever chemicals" because they do not easily break down and can remain in humans and the environment for extended periods of time. They are commonly found in firefighting foam, increasing human exposure, and unfairly putting our public servants at increased risk for health complications. Senate Bill 273 works to phase out various materials with PFAS and funds a buyback program for existing stocks of PFAS foam, minimizing the financial impact to fire departments and local governments.

Banning the sale and use of firefighting foam with PFAS additives is critical to protecting the health of our dedicated public servants and the environment. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 273. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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