

In Favor of SB07 – Onsite Wastewater Services – Board, Fees, and Penalties

To Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

My name is Eddie Harrison, I am the legislative liaison representing MOWPA (Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association).

Myself, representing MOWPA, and working with a group, affectionately referred to as “Team Septic” worked very hard and negotiated with many agencies and other stake holders to have 2021 HB407/SB22 Property Transfer Licensing and its counterpart the 2022 HB318 Onsite Wastewater Board and Licensing both pass out of this body and signed by the Governor. With the complexity of these bills and the extent of negotiations that occurred, there were sure to be a few technical errors. This bill is to correct these errors.

I, along with “Team Septic”, had meetings with MDE to bring these errors to light. The context of this Bill is the result of those meetings.

Below is an explanation of the corrections needed for these laws:

- Page 2, lines 5 and 6 – The Property Transfer Licensing was intended to only license Inspectors performing inspections during a property transfer to protect potential buyers from purchasing a home that may not have an adequate Onsite Wastewater Disposal System. The current wording implies that, potentially, anyone inspecting an Onsite Wastewater Disposal System would require a license. Implying that a contractor evaluating a system for a repair or expansion the property owner may be considering. This minor additional wording clears up this misunderstanding.
- Page 2, lines 24, 25, 26 – This additional wording directs the licensing fees, collected by the Board, to a fund that supports the Board.
- Page 2, Line 30 – This is additional wording for the same reason as comment above (Page 2, lines 5 and 6)
- Page 3, lines 2, 3, 4 – Directing penalty revenue towards environmental remediations efforts.
- Page 3, line 21 thru Page 4, line 8 – This change is to clarify the Board Member selection and make the math work.
- Page 6, Lines 6 thru 12 – This is clearer direction on how revenue generated by the Licensing Board is managed.

All of these changes were discussed and agreed upon in meetings with MDE, “Team Septic” and myself (representing MOWPA).

MOWPA is in full support of all of these proposed adjustments to these past Bills.

I represent MOWPA as an un-compensated Legislative Liaison, current Vice-President, and former Board President.

My day job is the owner of BAT Onsite, LLC. BAT Onsite, LLC., which is primarily an Operation and Maintenance Provider for automated Onsite Wastewater Systems. Including, but not limited to: Advanced

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Treatment Units (including BAT), Pump Systems, Mound Systems, Drip Dispersal Systems, and pretty much any Onsite Wastewater System that requires electrical/mechanical operation under 5,000 gallons per day. I am currently servicing over 600 units, covering the whole State of Maryland. I have been working in the Onsite Wastewater Industry as an installer, pumper, designer, property transfer inspector, and operation and maintenance provider since 1984

MOWPA represents all Maryland professionals in the Onsite Industry. We have in our membership: Installers, Pumpers, Engineers, Property Transfer Inspectors, Operation and Maintenance Providers, and Code Officials.

[The Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA) is a 501 C(6) not-for-profit organization, chartered in September 2004 to provide education and training programs for individuals and companies working in the onsite sewage disposal system industry.

OUR MISSION....to promote and enhance the use of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal by providing a forum for education, development and information transfer in order to create viable treatment processes, design, construction, operation and maintenance capabilities within the onsite industry. www.mowpa.org

The Onsite Wastewater System (Septic System) is the most expensive appliance in the home.

I ask for **favorable** report of **SB07 – Onsite Wastewater Services – Board, Fees, and Penalties**

Thank you for your time,

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