

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D., Acting Secretary

BILL NO: House Bill 53

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: Environment – Commercial Dishwashing Detergent -
Prohibition

BILL ANALYSIS:

This bill removes a previous exclusion for the phosphorus content of commercial dishwashing detergents and would now impose the same requirements applicable to other cleaning agents such as laundry and household dishwasher detergents under the Maryland Annotated Code § 9-1503.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

MDE supports House Bill 53. MDE encourages pollution prevention approaches, and this bill provides a pollution prevention (source reduction) approach versus relying solely on end of pipe treatment for controlling phosphorus from point source discharges. Maryland tributary strategies and EPA's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load [TMDL] for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment established on December 29, 2010 require reductions in the loadings of phosphorus and nitrogen discharged to the Bay.

MDE estimates that the phosphorus reductions to the Bay associated with the extension of the cleaning agent restrictions to commercial dishwasher detergents would be about half of any reductions that will be achieved from the household dishwater detergent phosphorus reductions that went into effect on July 1, 2010. In conjunction with SB 766 during the 2007 legislative session, MDE previously estimated that a phosphorus reduction of 26,000 pounds per year would result from the household dishwasher

detergent restrictions. Consequently, it is estimated that an additional 50%, or 13,000 pounds per year, would result from the extension of the cleaning agent requirements to commercial dishwasher detergents.

MDE recommends amending the effective date for the extension of the cleaning agent restrictions from October 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT LISA NISSLEY
410-260-6301 ANNAPOLIS
410-537-3812 BALTIMORE