

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: Senate Bill 977

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Matters

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Caroline County – Bay Restoration Fee – Lien Against Property

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill would modify the current Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) law to allow Caroline County to apply unpaid Bay Restoration Fee as a lien against the property being billed. The current BRF law does not allow any local government or billing authority to use a lien to enforce collection of the BRF fee.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

MDE supports Senate Bill 977. The collection of fees from septic owners for the Bay Restoration Fund is an activity overseen by the Comptroller of Maryland. Although the Department is unaware of any specific collection problems in Dorchester County or any other jurisdiction in Maryland, strengthening local government's ability to collect this fee will ensure that revenue to the BRF is maximized and that application of the fee is being enforced consistently and fairly throughout Maryland.

Local governments utilize a variety of methods to ensure collection of fees such as the BRF septic charge, but the addition of lien authority will only strengthen BRF collection efforts. The Department supports this modification to the Bay Restoration Fund law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

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