

STATE OF MARYLAND

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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

**BILL NO:** House Bill 177

**COMMITTEE:** Environmental Matters

**POSITION:** Support

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**TITLE:** Environment – On-site Sewage Disposal Systems – Nitrogen Removal

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

This legislation would require all septic systems installed in the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bay watersheds that are to serve new construction utilize nitrogen removal technology. The Department estimates that this would result in 1,800 to 5,000 new nitrogen removal units installed each year. For the purpose of this analysis the Department will use 2,500 new nitrogen removal units per year. 37,500 pounds of nitrogen per year will be prevented from entering the waters of State. This is accumulating, in that in year one 37,500 pounds are removed and in year two 75,000 pounds would be removed. Nitrogen removal units require a high level of management to ensure operation and maintenance in order to remove nitrogen. MDE will have to establish, implement and maintain a management program.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Department supports this Bill. Existing statute requires that a nitrogen removal unit be included to serve newly constructed buildings on septic in the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bays Critical Areas. This legislation extends that requirement to the entire Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bays watersheds. The number of required nitrogen units installed each year will increase from about 500 per year to about 3,000 per year. This is consistent with Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan.

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