

CBPC Priority Legislative Tracking 2014 (as of 1.15.14)						MD General Session convenes January 8-April 7		
Maryland Bills								
	Topic	Bill #	Companion Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status/Notes	CBPC Position
1	Wastewater/Septic	<a href="#">SB 1</a>		Senator Hershey	<b>Bay Restoration Fee – Exemption – On-Site Sewage Disposal System Using Best Available Technology</b>	Exempts users of on-site sewage disposal systems that uses the best available technology for nitrogen removal from paying a Bay Restoration Fee.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation	
2	Stormwater	<a href="#">HB 97</a>	<a href="#">SB 5</a>	HB 97: Delegates Bates and W. Miller; HB 50: Delegate Norman; S 5: Senator Kittleman	<b>Stormwater Management – Watershed Protection and Restoration Program – Repeal</b>	Repeals requirements that affected counties adopt and implement laws to establish watershed protection and restoration programs, repeals MDE's authority on stormwater management regulations.	Assigned to: Environmental Matters	
<b>NOTE:</b> More highlights of MD Legislation will be forthcoming as the Session continues.								

<b>General Assembly Schedule:</b>						
						8-Jan Assembly convened
						17-Jan Last day to introduce bills
						8-Mar Adjourn
						23-Apr Reconvene
<b>CBPC Priority Legislative Tracking 2014 (as of 1.15.14)</b>						
<b>Virginia Bills</b>						
Topic	Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status/Notes	CBPC Position
1 <b>Funding-</b> Bag fee revenue for VA Water Quality Improvement Fund	<a href="#">HB 117</a>	Morrissey	<b>Paper and plastic bag tax.</b>	Imposes a tax of five cents (\$0.05) beginning on July 1, 2015, on disposable paper bags and disposable plastic bags used by purchasers to carry tangible personal property purchased in grocery stores, convenience stores, or drug stores. The following would be exempt from the tax: durable, reusable plastic bags; plastic bags used to carry ice cream, meat, fish, poultry, leftover restaurant food, newspapers, and dry cleaning; paper and plastic bags used to carry alcoholic beverages or prescription drugs; and multiple plastic bags sold in packages and intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or leaf removal bags. Retailers are allowed to retain one cent (\$0.01) of the five-cent (\$0.05) tax or two cents (\$0.02) if the retailer has a customer bag credit program. Failure to collect and remit the tax will result in fines of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 for the first, second, and third and subsequent offenses, respectively. The revenues from the tax would be deposited into the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund.	Referred to committee on finance.	
2 <b>Stormwater</b>	<a href="#">SB 53</a>	Stuart	<b>Regulation of stormwater; waiver of charges for places of worship</b>	Requires a locality that adopts a system of stormwater management service charges to provide for a waiver of at least 50 percent of such charge to any church, synagogue, or other place of worship.	Referred to Senate Ag Committee. Will likely come up the week of 1/23. VAMSA is opposing this bill.	
3 <b>Stormwater</b>	<a href="#">SB 530</a>	Hanger	<b>Local implementation of Stormwater Management Program</b>	Delays the date that local governments will have to assume responsibility for administering the Stormwater Management Program from July 1, 2014, to July 1, 2015.	Referred to ACNR.	
<b>NOTE:</b> Currently there are not any VA wastewater or biosolids bills of significance for COG tracking at this time.						

CBPC Priority Legislative Tracking 2014 (as of 1.15.14)							
Federal Bills and Budget Outlook							
	Topic	Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status/Notes	CBPC Position
1	Funding	<a href="#">H.R.3582</a>	Rep Blumenauer, Earl	<i>Water Trust Fund Act of 2013</i>	Requires 85% of amounts in the Fund to be available to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for making capitalization grants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) (commonly known as the Clean Water Act), and 15% to be available to the Secretary of the Treasury for carrying out the innovative financing program established under this Act. The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish an innovative financing program to make financial assistance available for projects eligible under section 603(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(c)).	Introduced 11/21/13.	
2	Funding	2014 Omnibus			<p><b>What it would mean for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b> – The bill provides \$8.2 billion for the EPA, which is \$143 million below the fiscal year 2013. enacted level. Provides \$23 million for EPA water regulatory programs. Provides \$2.35 billion in grants to states for local drinking water and sewer construction projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. FY' 14 Clean water SRF: \$1,448,887,000 (same as FY' 13). FY'14 Drinking Water SRF: \$906,896 (same as FY'13). USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program: \$58,858,000 (down \$2.6 M from FY'13).</p> <p>Also has several policy provisions aimed at reining in the EPA and prevent unnecessary over-regulation of American businesses and industries that kill jobs and slow economic growth. Some of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A provision to exempt livestock producers from overly burdensome EPA greenhouse gas regulations;</li> <li>• A provision requiring the Administration to report to Congress on federal agency obligations and expenditures on climate change programs;</li> <li>• A provision requiring the EPA to resolve differences with states and industry on regional haze issues; and</li> <li>• A provision to enhance congressional oversight of EPA's review of mining permits.</li> </ul>		
3	Integration, Sustainability, Regulatory Flexibility & Funding for Water Infrastructure		Water Environment Federation & Others		<p>WEF in asking for infrastructure funding via the following ways: <b>Infrastructure Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Protect the State Revolving Funds (SRF)</li> <li>–Maintain the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds</li> <li>–Attract additional private investment by lifting the volume cap on private activity bonds (PABs)</li> <li>–Provide a new funding source for large, regional projects (WIFIA)</li> </ul>		
4	Affordability & Funding			<i>Proposed Water Quality Improvement Act</i>	Would open the Clean Water Act to either increase funds or flexibility to meet Clean Water Goals in an affordable way, and potentially allow changes to requirements.		