

Chapter 561

**(Senate Bill 835)**

AN ACT concerning

**Environment – Delegated Authorities – Well and Septic Program Permits**

FOR the purpose of requiring a local health department or county government with certain delegated authority to submit, on or before a certain date, a schedule of review times for certain well and septic program permits to the Department of the Environment for approval; requiring a local health department or county government to submit well and septic program permit data to the Department for review at a certain frequency under certain circumstances; and generally relating to local health departments or county governments and well and septic program permits.

BY adding to

Article – Environment

Section 9–1114

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Environment**

**9–1114.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) “DELEGATED AUTHORITY” MEANS A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER A WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM.**

**(3) “WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH A DELEGATED AUTHORITY ISSUES PERMITS FOR:**

**(I) THE INSTALLATION OF ON–SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS; AND**

**(II) THE CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS.**

(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, A DELEGATED AUTHORITY SHALL SUBMIT A SCHEDULE OF REVIEW TIMES FOR WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM PERMITS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL.

(C) BEGINNING 3 MONTHS AFTER THE SCHEDULE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND EVERY 3 MONTHS THEREAFTER, A DELEGATED AUTHORITY SHALL SUBMIT WELL AND SEPTIC PROGRAM PERMIT DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) (1) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland Association of County Health Officers, the Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors, the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Association of Counties, and the Department of Information Technology, shall study and make recommendations on modernizing IT systems to connect local health department environmental programs, local governments, and the Department of the Environment in relation to well and septic program permits.~~

~~(2) The study shall address:~~

~~(i) the backend interoperability of existing systems that allow local health departments or local governments to share relevant data with the Department of the Environment;~~

~~(ii) the optimal design of a modernized system that includes front-facing dashboards to enable members of the public and State agencies to track permit processing status;~~

~~(iii) the potential timeline for system modernization;~~

~~(iv) the estimated costs of system modernization; and~~

~~(v) the availability of federal funds to match State investment.~~

~~(b) (1) On or before December 1, 2024, the Department of the Environment shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for legislative or administrative changes to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.~~

~~(2) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department of the Environment shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for legislative or administrative changes to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State~~

~~Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.~~

SECTION ~~2~~ ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**