

HOUSE BILL 326

M3

5lr1094

By: **Delegate Krimm**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Monocacy River Watershed – Water Resources Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to engage with the
4 Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin on the development and
5 implementation of a certain water resources plan for a certain portion of the
6 Monocacy River watershed; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to
7 certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year;
8 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Monocacy
9 River watershed.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The Monocacy River, the largest tributary to the Potomac River in
12 Maryland, has its headwaters in Adams County, Pennsylvania, and flows through
13 Frederick County, Carroll County, and Montgomery County, and has a total watershed
14 area of 1,184 square miles (884 square miles are located in Maryland); and

15 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
16 (ICPRB) published a draft Critical Area Resource Plan for the portion of the Monocacy
17 River watershed located in Pennsylvania that identified management alternatives to
18 address water resources issues, including water availability, water storage, water quality,
19 and stormwater; and

20 WHEREAS, A water resources plan does not exist for the portion of the Monocacy
21 River watershed located in Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, Local, State, and federal agencies are implementing water resource
23 activities in the Monocacy River watershed that may not be coordinated on a watershed
24 basis; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the
2 State's Water Resources (established by Executive Order 01.01.2005.25) July 2008 final
3 report contains several recommendations to ensure a sustainable water supply for
4 Maryland, including recommendations to promote collaborative local planning and to
5 facilitate regional planning; and

6 WHEREAS, The impact of growth in Adams County, Pennsylvania, on the
7 downstream water quality and supply has not been determined and, similarly, the impact
8 of growth in Frederick County on the Maryland portion of the watershed has not been
9 determined; and

10 WHEREAS, ICPRB is proposing the development of a comprehensive water
11 resources plan for the Maryland portion of the Monocacy River watershed, which will
12 complement the ICPRB's Critical Area Resource Plan for the portion of the watershed
13 located in Pennsylvania by providing a comprehensive approach to water resources
14 management in the entire Monocacy River watershed; now, therefore,

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That:

17 (a) The Department of the Environment shall engage with the Interstate
18 Commission on the Potomac River Basin on the development and implementation of a
19 comprehensive water resources plan for the portion of the Monocacy River watershed
20 located in Maryland.

21 (b) On or before December 31 of each year, the Department of the Environment
22 shall submit a report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
23 Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Environment and
24 Transportation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with
25 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the status of the water resources plan and,
26 if available, the conclusions and recommendations of any study associated with the water
27 resources plan.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September
30 30, 2020, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
31 abrogated and of no further force and effect.