

~~requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct certain inflow and infiltration studies on wastewater treatment systems over a certain period; requiring the Department to finance a utility rate study for each locality with a wastewater treatment system in Maryland over a certain period; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to wastewater infrastructure improvement.~~

BY adding to

~~Article—Environment~~

~~Section 9-352~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1996 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, The costs of upgrading sewerage lines and wastewater treatment facilities to meet today's environmental standards and to accommodate growth typically far exceeds the financial resources of most smaller communities in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The availability of an adequate wastewater infrastructure is a vital component of economic and community development strategies of the counties and municipal corporations in the State; and

WHEREAS, The lack of an adequate wastewater infrastructure in many smaller communities poses a serious challenge to the quality of life in these communities and undermines the State's Smart Growth objectives that seek to channel future growth and development into existing populated areas where infrastructure is already in place to accommodate this development; now, therefore,

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

~~Article—Environment~~

~~9-352.~~

~~(A) THERE IS A WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND.~~

~~(B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 10% OF THE TOTAL FUNDS IN THE MARYLAND WATER QUALITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO BE DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY TO THE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE MONEY IN THE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE THROUGH GRANTS FOR IMPROVING WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACCORDING TO THIS SECTION.~~