Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 2/16/2026 11:45 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB952H1 **Patron:** Lopez
Bill Title: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Credit Exchange Program; nutrient credit use by regulated entities.

Bill Summary: Expands the definition of "nutrient credit" for purposes of industrial stormwater general permit nutrient reduction compliance for calendar years 2025 and 2026 to include certain point source nutrient credits, subject to specified conditions regarding timing, geographic origin, eligibility, and reporting. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to prioritize enforcement actions against noncompliant industrial stormwater permittees for those calendar years and to convene a work group to evaluate conditions and requirements for industrial stormwater general permit nutrient reduction compliance in future years. Requires DEQ to submit a report with recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than November 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: **No.** **Items Impacted:** **N/A**

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section, below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any costs DEQ may incur can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. It is anticipated that the Department of Environmental Quality can absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill.

Other: None.