

State of Rio Study Tour:

Lessons Learned



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LIGHT FOR ALL
THE BALTIMORE SUN

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Senate gives storm-water bill preliminary nod

State's largest communities must levy fees to curb runoff pollution

April 09, 2012 | Tim Wheeler

...A "sleeper" bill that would require Baltimore city and the state's nine largest counties **to levy fees on property owners to pay for controlling storm-water pollution won preliminary Senate approval** this evening, though whether it will pass in the General Assembly's waning hours remains to be seen.

Assembly approves stormwater pollution mandate

State's largest localities required to levy fees to pay for cleanup

April 10, 2012

Sen. E.J. Pipkin, R-Upper Shore, denounced the fee mandate, saying state lawmakers were forcing local governments to pay for pollution reductions ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency under a Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan adopted more than a year ago.

"We're going to tax rain water," said Pipkin, who noted that the EPA's authority to impose a "pollution diet" for the bay is currently being challenged in federal court.

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4-11-12: "Tax on Rain" Passes in Maryland to Pay for Stormwater Pollution Controls

Just minutes before midnight on the last day of the Maryland General Assembly session, lawmakers approved a landmark law that will require cities and counties to create fees to pay for stormwater pollution control projects.

Although **ridiculed by critics as a "tax on rain,"** advocates argue the stormwater fees will put thousands of people to work building stormwater filters and allow local governments to tackle the only source of pollution still growing in the Chesapeake Bay.

Frederick Co. considers fighting state 'rain tax' law in court



Saturday - 4/21/2012, 2:00am ET

Newly passed Maryland legislation that would require Frederick County to levy a stormwater remediation charge has drawn the ire of county commissioners, who are **now exploring ways to resist the potential mandate.**

Rather than craft a new fee, Commissioners President Blaine Young said, the county might take legal action. He also might ask the nine other jurisdictions affected by the bill to join the action against what he and other local officials call a **"rain tax."**

Chesapeake Bay Foundation on Maryland Rain Tax: Time to own up

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Maryland lawmakers created quite a stir earlier this month once they passed the “Impervious Surfaces” tax, or **Rain Tax that basically charges residents for rainwater.** Now, the group in favor of the push is explaining why the tax is needed.

The Rain Tax essentially charges homeowners for any surface of land they own that does not absorb rainwater. The ultimate goal, according to My Fox, is to reduce storm-water runoff and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



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‘Rain tax’ falls all over the place: Stormwater fees uneven, from a penny to thousands

May 29, 2013 at 8:01 am

To comply or not to comply with the **new so-called “rain tax”**? There is no question.

The state’s 10 most populated counties are required by law to implement a stormwater utility fee by July 1. The revenue will be used to fund their respective watershed protection and restoration programs, designed to prevent pollutants from entering the Chesapeake Bay.



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LEAVING TAXPAYERS SOAKED
MARYLAND INTRODUCING 'RAIN TAX'

NOW

"IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD," AND "MO S&P ▼ 7.49

The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of green grass blades. On the left side, there are several vertical stripes in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark. A horizontal green band is positioned across the middle of the slide, containing the text.

Questions?