

HOUSE BILL 1618

M3

6lr3580

By: **Delegate Qi**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of the Environment – Procedures for Permitting Efficiency –**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment, in coordination with the
5 Department of Commerce, to adopt procedures on or before a certain date to
6 streamline the permitting process for certain entities and certain permits; and
7 generally relating to permitting efficiency for environmental permits.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Environment

10 Section 1–608

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Environment**

16 **1–608.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “DEDICATED NAVIGATOR” MEANS A REPRESENTATIVE**
18 **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR FROM A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ASSISTANCE AGENCY OR**
19 **ORGANIZATION WHO:**

20 **(1) IS IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH A PERMIT APPLICANT; AND**

21 **(2) ASSISTS THE APPLICANT IN THE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS ISSUED IN**
2 **ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 2, TITLE 4, TITLE 9, AND TITLE 16 OF THIS ARTICLE BY A**
3 **PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS THAT IS PRIMARILY**
4 **ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN**
5 **INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (NAICS), UNITED STATES MANUAL,**
6 **UNITED STATES OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, 2012 EDITION, WOULD BE**
7 **INCLUDED IN SECTOR 31, 32, OR 33.**

8 **(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT, IN**
9 **COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, SHALL ADOPT**
10 **PROCEDURES TO STREAMLINE THE PERMITTING PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
11 **THIS SECTION.**

12 **(2) A STREAMLINED PERMITTING PROCESS ADOPTED UNDER THIS**
13 **SECTION SHALL, AT A MINIMUM:**

14 **(I) REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE A DETERMINATION**
15 **ON A PERMIT APPLICATION WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE**
16 **DEPARTMENT RECEIVES THE PERMIT APPLICATION;**

17 **(II) PROVIDE FOR A DEDICATED NAVIGATOR; AND**

18 **(III) ESTABLISH A SINGLE DIGITAL PORTAL THROUGH WHICH**
19 **PERMIT APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2026.