



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, Maryland

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 1, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Analysis of SB 792- PA Fertilizer Act for Crediting Nutrient Runoff

**FROM:** Richard Batiuk, <sup>RAB</sup> Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office

**TO:** Kerry Golden, Executive Director  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review SB 792 and analyze the bill's language strictly as it pertains to simulating nutrient runoff reductions from urban lands in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and receiving credit for those simulated pollutant load reductions.

There are two types of credit approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership available through the Partnership's Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model for reducing nutrient applications on urban turfgrass. They are:

Credit 1: overall reductions in tracked fertilizer sales for nitrogen and phosphorus; and

Credit 2: urban nutrient management plans

**Question:** Does SB 792 contain what is needed for credit 1, overall reductions in tracked fertilizer sales for nitrogen and phosphorus?

**Answer:** Yes. The labeling restrictions in Section 6813 and the application restrictions in Section 6852 may result in a decrease in applications of nitrogen and phosphorus to urban turfgrass. This planned decrease can be credited by the Partnership's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. The tonnage reporting requirement in Section 6816 will provide the needed verification to continue receiving credit for this planned decrease in fertilizer application by tracking trends in fertilizer sales.

**Question:** Does SB 792 contain what is needed for credit 2?

**Answer:** Yes. The record keeping requirements for commercial applicators described in Section 6841 would qualify acres under commercial application for the urban nutrient management plan credit available in through the Partnership's Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. I can be reached at 410-267-5731 or [batiuk.richard@epa.gov](mailto:batiuk.richard@epa.gov).