

## **Septic Stewardship Program (House Bill 1765):**

Passed during 2018 legislative session, House Bill 1765 is intended to:

- (1) Allow nitrogen reduction from on-site sewage disposal systems to be counted in the Watershed Implementation Plan only if the operation and maintenance of the systems are current.
- (2) Allow nitrogen reduction from pumping out of on-site sewage disposal systems to be counted in the Watershed Implementation Plan if they are part of local Septic Stewardship Plan.
- (3) Allow Local jurisdictions to provide financial assistance (not to exceed 10% of their allocated funds) toward the pumping out of on-site sewage disposal systems.
- (4) Allow the Department to provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions in FY 2020 and 2021 to develop Septic Stewardship Plans.

### ***Program Status:***

Septic Stewardship Program became effective October 2, 2018 which allows local jurisdictions the availability to develop plans with FY2020 and FY2021 funds. MDE introduced the program through regional workshops involving Watershed Implementation Plans in June, 2018. Conceptual Septic Stewardship plans have been provided to each county health department or local approving authority, acknowledging that each plan should be customized to address local goals. Portions of the septic stewardship plan currently exist in three counties, albeit voluntary or regulated, that have a septic pumping program.