

# HOUSE BILL 34

L3

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1275

CF SB 189

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By: **Delegates Bouchat, Fair, Moon, and Schindler**

Requested: October 21, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                   **Municipalities – Open Drainage Inlets – Required Grating Systems**  
3                   **(Mason's Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a municipality to construct or install a certain approved  
5 grating system on a new or existing open drainage inlet within the municipality; and  
6 generally relating to open drainage inlets in municipalities.

7 BY adding to

8                   Article – Local Government  
9                   Section 4–112  
10                  Annotated Code of Maryland  
11                  (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14                   **Article – Local Government**

15 **4–112.**

16                   **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
17 **INDICATED.**

18                   **(2) (I) “APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM” MEANS A COVER PLACED**  
19 **OVER THE OPENING OF AN OPEN DRAINAGE INLET IN ORDER TO ALLOW**  
20 **STORMWATER RUNOFF TO ENTER THE DRAINAGE INLET WHILE PREVENTING LARGE**  
21 **DEBRIS FROM ENTERING THE DRAINAGE INLET.**

22                   **(II) “APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM” INCLUDES:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **1. A STANDARD YARD INLET;**

2                   **2. A RAISED GRATE YARD INLET;**

3                   **3. A TRASH RACK GRATING, PROVIDED THAT THE RACK**  
4   **HAS AT LEAST FOUR SIDES, EACH OF WHICH IS AT LEAST AS LARGE AS THE DIAMETER**  
5   **OF THE SURFACE OPENING; AND**

6                   **4. FOR NEW DRAINAGE INLETS, A PRECAST CONCRETE**  
7   **BOX INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAINAGE INLET.**

8                   **(3) "OPEN DRAINAGE INLET" MEANS A STRUCTURE WITH A SURFACE**  
9   **OPENING THAT:**

10                  **(I) HAS A DIAMETER OF 12 INCHES OR MORE; AND**

11                  **(II) IS DESIGNED TO COLLECT AND DRAIN STORMWATER**  
12   **RUNOFF.**

13                  **(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
14   **MUNICIPALITY SHALL:**

15                  **(I) INCORPORATE AN APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM INTO THE**  
16   **CONSTRUCTION OF ANY NEW OPEN DRAINAGE INLET WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY;**  
17   **AND**

18                  **(II) INSTALL AN APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM ON ANY EXISTING**  
19   **OPEN DRAINAGE INLET WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY.**

20                  **(2) AN APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM CONSTRUCTED OR INSTALLED**  
21   **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SECURED TO THE INLET END OF THE OPEN**  
22   **DRAINAGE INLET, OR THE CONCRETE STRUCTURE BUILT TO HOUSE THE DRAINAGE**  
23   **INLET, IN A MANNER THAT PREVENTS THE APPROVED GRATING SYSTEM FROM**  
24   **BEING REMOVED WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE TOOLS OR BY THE FORCE OF FLOOD**  
25   **WATER.**

26                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before June 1, 2027,  
27   each municipality in the State shall install an approved grating system on any existing  
28   open drainage inlet within the municipality in accordance with § 4–112 of the Local  
29   Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

30                  SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31   October 1, 2026.

