



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 976 (3rd) – Mold Assessment and Remediation - Standards – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments, as offered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), for House Bill (HB) 976 (3rd) – Mold Assessment and Remediation - Standards. This bill will require MDE, in consultation with the MDH, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of General Services, to adopt regulations that establish five standards for mold assessment and remediation, as well as a risk reduction standard for mold hazards.

Many of the inquiries from the public involving housing quality are based in part on the presence of mold and dampness. In addition, childhood asthma emergency department visit rates in Maryland, a focus of the Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy, may be as much as three to five times higher in Black non-Hispanic children than in other children due in part to housing conditions, which may include mold and dampness.

MDH supports efforts to improve housing quality and agrees that improved housing quality can be an important part of improving public health. However, MDH agrees with MDE that there are significant challenges to establishing a standard for mold remediation, and as such supports amendments offered by MDE that would create a Work Group to address this topic. MDH, along with MDE, agrees that such a Work Group should include the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of General Services, due to their strong influence on housing and building quality, and the Department of Labor, owing to its responsibility for Code adoption.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary