



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

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 976 – Mold Assessment and Remediation - Standards – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 976 – Mold Assessment and Remediation - Standards. This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment, in consultation with MDH and other state agencies, to adopt uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation, including a risk reduction standard.

Indoor air quality can have significant effects on the occupants of a building.¹ Mold is pervasive in indoor environments but can be controlled through efforts to improve moisture and dampness. There is great variability in individuals' sensitivity to molds, especially amongst people with allergies and/or asthma. Due to these variations in sensitivity, it is not feasible to define a universally "safe" concentration of mold. Additionally, it is often difficult to identify the specific source of airborne mold. Therefore, most guidance on indoor air quality and mold emphasizes addressing underlying causes of mold growth such as building moisture, leaks, and recommended operation of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems.

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

¹ "Damp indoor environments, indoor microbial exposures, and respiratory or allergic disease outcomes." In: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Microbiomes of the Built Environment: A Research Agenda for Indoor Microbiology, Human Health, and Buildings. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: <https://doi.org/10.17226/23647>, pp 43 - 50.