



House Bill 245 – Department of Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation

Position: Unfavorable

The Maryland REALTORS® opposes HB 245 which increases fees for certain Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) licenses and permits. The REALTORS® are concerned over the fee increase to rental properties for lead registration.

While the REALTORS® do not have a position on many of the fee increases in the bill -- which range in scale -- the increase to the annual lead registration doubles from \$30 per unit per year, to \$120 per unit every 2 years. The doubling of the fee appears large compared to many of the other fee increases included in the bill and impact our older rental units which are some of the most affordable in the state. This fee increase is compounded for multi-unit properties which may have several to hundreds of units they register each year.

While we appreciate the Governor's focus on creating more housing in Maryland, we believe the current lead registration fee undermines efforts to protect rental affordability and we encourage an unfavorable report.

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