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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Subject: SB 1031 – Civil Actions – Lead Poisoning – Liability and Statute of Limitations
(Maryland Lead Poisoning Compensation Act)
Date: March 5, 2024
Position: **Opposed**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) files this opposition regarding **Senate Bill 1031 – Civil Actions – Lead Poisoning – Liability and Statute of Limitations**. SB 1031 establishes that an action against the owner or manager of certain property to recover certain damages arising from injuries suffered as a result of lead poisoning may be filed at any time.

MSBA represents more attorneys than any other organization across the state in all practice areas. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

MSBA appreciates the goals of this legislation to support victims of lead poisoning in recovering fair compensation and taking into consideration related health challenges that may not be seen until years after exposure. However, the complete removal of a statute of limitations and the bill's retroactive application raise constitutional and due process concerns. MSBA respectfully asks the Committee to consider alternative approaches that would provide appropriate relief to lead poisoning victims.

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