



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 443 – Baby Food Labeling - Statement Regarding Toxic Heavy Metal Testing - Terminology — Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 443 – Baby Food Labeling - Statement Regarding Toxic Heavy Metal Testing - Terminology. HB 443 changes the language required on the labels of baby food products from “toxic heavy metal” to “toxic element”, and abbreviates “Quick Response (QR)” to “QR.” The bill updates the current language in §21–330.4 of the Health-General Article to align with the California state statute on which the original Maryland legislation was modeled.

HB 443, as written, will assist industry in complying concurrently with the Maryland statute and the California statute. By amending Maryland’s language to use the same terminology as California’s requirements for toxic element testing and labeling of baby foods, this bill allows manufacturers to label their products without disparate labeling requirements and burdensome label changes.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

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