



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 3, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 203 – Environment - Lead Paint Abatement Services - Performance Bond and Liability Insurance – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 203 - Environment - Lead Paint Abatement Services - Performance Bond and Liability Insurance. This departmental legislation, requested by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), represents an important step in ensuring that lead abatement activities in Maryland effectively protect the health of families across the State.

The Department works closely with MDE to eliminate childhood lead poisoning, a preventable condition that can cause lasting neurological damage. The primary medical intervention for lead poisoning is removing the child from the source of exposure. As a result, the Department relies heavily on the environmental lead paint abatement industry to make homes safe. However, improper or incomplete lead paint abatement is a known public health hazard. When a contractor disturbs lead paint but lacks the resources to properly clean up lead dust or complete the project, the home may become more dangerous for its occupants and visitors than it was prior to the start of the work.

By authorizing MDE to require performance bonds or liability insurance for accredited abatement providers, this legislation establishes a vital public health safety net. It ensures that, in cases of contractor default or substandard work, financial resources are available to engage a new provider to properly and promptly complete the project and remove toxic hazards. This requirement also provides critical protections for low-income families – who are already at increased risk of lead exposure – by creating a clear path to remediation without placing the financial burden on those affected.¹

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “People at Increased Risk for Childhood Lead Poisoning,” April 10, 2024. Accessed January 26, 2026. <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/risk-factors/index.html>

In conclusion, SB 203 strengthens Maryland's lead poisoning prevention infrastructure by ensuring that entities entrusted with removing environmental toxins are financially capable of standing behind their work. For these reasons, the Department urges a favorable report on SB 203 and its crossfile, HB 252.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meena Seshamani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary