

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 976

(Delegate Henson, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Workgroup on Mold Standards and Remediation

This bill establishes the Workgroup on Mold Standards and Remediation to study information on mold assessment and remediation to determine best practices for identifying mold, preventing the development of mold within indoor environments, and remediating indoor moldy conditions harmful to public health. Specifically, the workgroup must (1) study information related to mold standards and remediation practices provided by specified industry groups, state governments, and international governments; (2) study the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 2008 *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings* guidelines, as revised and updated; (3) study the extent to which climate change may increase mold development within indoor environments; and (4) recommend best practices (as noted above). The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must provide staff for the workgroup. Workgroup members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. The workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1, 2024. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for workgroup members and staffing costs for MDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: EPA has a host of programs and an extensive list of resources to help states address indoor air quality, including mold. Among other things, these resources include a guide entitled [*Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*](#). EPA advises that there are no federal standards or threshold limit values for mold or mold spores, which means that sampling cannot be used to check a building's compliance with federal mold standards. However, EPA advises that surface sampling may be useful to determine if an area has been adequately cleaned or remediated. Similarly, MDE has not developed any exposure limit standards for indoor concentrations of mold or mold spores, and there are no statewide standards or requirements for conducting mold assessments or remediation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of General Services; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Housing and Community Development; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2023
km/lgc Third Reader - March 22, 2023
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 22, 2023
Enrolled - April 26, 2023
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 26, 2023
Revised - Clarification - April 26, 2023

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