

# HOUSE BILL 1237

M4

6lr3096

---

By: **Delegates Ruth, Healey, Lehman, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing certain requirements for a pesticide business licensee that  
5 has a subscription contract for pest control with a residential customer; requiring  
6 the Department of Agriculture to establish a Residential Pollinator Protection and  
7 Neighbor Notification Registry for the purpose of registering certain individuals who  
8 are interested in receiving notice of certain pesticide applications; requiring the  
9 Department to prepare a certain list from the Registry and distribute the list to  
10 certain licensees; requiring certain licensees and pesticide applicators to take certain  
11 actions before and during a pesticide application to a property contiguous or adjacent  
12 to the property of a registered individual; and generally relating to pesticide  
13 applications.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Agriculture  
16 Section 5–208  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Agriculture  
21 Section 5–208.2  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Agriculture**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5-208.

2 (a) When a pesticide is applied, or at the time a customer enters into a contract  
3 with a licensee for pest control, a licensee shall provide a customer with the following  
4 written information:

5 (1) Name of licensee;

6 (2) Maryland pesticide business license number;

7 (3) Telephone number of licensee;

8 (4) Common name of pesticide or active ingredient applied;

9 (5) Pertinent safety information, as determined by the Department,  
10 including health risks for humans and animals, about pesticide in the end-use dilution  
11 applied;

12 (6) Maryland Poison Center telephone number; and

13 (7) Any other information required by the Department.

14 (b) Upon the customer's request, the licensee shall provide the customer with  
15 advance notice of a pesticide application.

16 (c) **A LICENSEE THAT HAS A SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACT FOR PEST CONTROL**  
17 **WITH A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER SHALL:**

18 **(1) INSPECT THE CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY BEFORE EACH PESTICIDE**  
19 **APPLICATION;**

20 **(2) MAKE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE TO THE**  
21 **CUSTOMER, BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON, THE INSPECTION FINDINGS AND**  
22 **RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE FINDINGS, INCLUDING ANY**  
23 **RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NONCHEMICAL INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS**  
24 **SANITATION OR STRUCTURAL REPAIR;**

25 **(3) IF CHEMICAL PEST CONTROL METHODS ARE NEEDED,**  
26 **RECOMMEND THE LEAST TOXIC ALTERNATIVE THAT WILL BE EFFECTIVE FOR THE**  
27 **TARGETED PESTS; AND**

28 **(4) DOCUMENT THE RESULTS OF THE INSPECTION, THE**  
29 **RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CUSTOMER IN THE**  
30 **RECORDS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

1           **(D)** (1) A licensee or public agency permittee applying a pesticide to a lawn or  
2 to exterior landscape plants shall post at the time of application a sign.

3                   (2) The sign shall remain 48 hours following the pesticide application, after  
4 which time the customer is responsible for the removal of the sign.

5                   (3) (i) A person may not remove, alter, or deface the sign or agree or  
6 conspire with another to remove, alter, or deface the sign within 48 hours of its posting.

7                               (ii) The customer or licensee may not be held liable for any penalty  
8 for sign removal under this subtitle if the sign is removed by another person or cause over  
9 which the customer or licensee has no control.

10                   (4) The sign shall:

11                               (i) Be clearly visible either from the principal place of access to the  
12 property; or

13                               (ii) Be clearly visible on the portion of the property where the  
14 pesticide is applied.

15                   (5) The sign shall contain a uniform statement approved by the  
16 Department.

17           **[(d)] (E)** Before applying an experimental use pesticide, the holder of the  
18 required experimental use permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shall  
19 provide the Department with the following information:

20                   (1) Name of cooperator;

21                   (2) Location of planned application or treatment;

22                   (3) Name of active ingredient of pesticide;

23                   (4) Purpose of application or use;

24                   (5) Total acreage being affected by application;

25                   (6) Toxicological profile of pesticide; and

26                   (7) Any other information required by the Department.

27 **5-208.2.**

28           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "REGISTRY" MEANS THE RESIDENTIAL POLLINATOR**  
29 **PROTECTION AND NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION REGISTRY.**

1           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL POLLINATOR**  
2 **PROTECTION AND NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION REGISTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF**  
3 **REGISTERING INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS WHO ARE**  
4 **INTERESTED IN RECEIVING NOTICE OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON CONTIGUOUS**  
5 **OR ADJACENT PROPERTIES.**

6           **(C) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN THE REGISTRY BY**  
7 **COMPLETING A REGISTRATION FORM PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

8                   **(2) THE REGISTRATION FORM SHALL, AT A MINIMUM:**

9                           **(I) REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE NAME, STREET**  
10 **ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE APPLICANT AND OF EACH CONTIGUOUS**  
11 **OR ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER; AND**

12                           **(II) INCLUDE CHECKBOXES TO DESIGNATE:**

13                                   1. **WHETHER ANY MEMBER OF THE APPLICANT'S**  
14 **HOUSEHOLD HAS A PESTICIDE SENSITIVITY OR SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO A**  
15 **PESTICIDE BECAUSE OF A CURRENT DIAGNOSED CONDITION OR AILMENT;**

16                                   2. **WHETHER PETS OR DOMESTIC ANIMALS RESIDE ON**  
17 **THE APPLICANT'S PROPERTY; AND**

18                                   3. **WHETHER THE APPLICANT'S PROPERTY INCLUDES A**  
19 **POLLINATOR GARDEN OR OTHER WILDLIFE HABITAT.**

20                   **(3) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE REGISTRATIONS TO BE**  
21 **RENEWED ANNUALLY, ON OR BEFORE A DATE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

22                           **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXTEND OR MAKE EXCEPTIONS TO**  
23 **THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR REASONABLE CAUSE.**

24           **(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
25 **THE DEPARTMENT MAY CHARGE A REASONABLE REGISTRATION FEE TO AN**  
26 **APPLICANT FOR INCLUSION IN THE REGISTRY.**

27                   **(2) THE FEE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN REGULATION AND SHALL BE**  
28 **DESIGNED TO COVER THE COSTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF IMPLEMENTING THIS**  
29 **SECTION.**

1           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WAIVE THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR AN**  
2 **INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION DEMONSTRATING THAT THE**  
3 **INDIVIDUAL OR A MEMBER OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOUSEHOLD SHOULD NOT BE**  
4 **EXPOSED TO PESTICIDES DUE TO A PESTICIDE SENSITIVITY OR OTHER DIAGNOSED**  
5 **CONDITION OR AILMENT.**

6           **(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE FROM THE REGISTRY A LIST**  
7 **OF:**

8                   **(I) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

10                   **(II) PROPERTY OWNERS WHO ARE CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT**  
11 **TO THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS AND WHO MAY CONTRACT FOR PEST CONTROL.**

12           **(2) THE LIST SHALL INCLUDE NOTICE OF WHETHER THE REGISTERED**  
13 **INDIVIDUAL HAS INDICATED THE PRESENCE OF A DOMESTIC ANIMAL OR**  
14 **POLLINATOR GARDEN ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROPERTY.**

15           **(3) AT A FREQUENCY DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, BUT AT**  
16 **LEAST ONCE PER YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE LIST TO EACH**  
17 **LICENSEE.**

18           **(F) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY THE PEST CONTROL**  
19 **CATEGORIES TO WHICH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLY.**

20                   **(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS**  
21 **ON AGRICULTURAL LAND, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE LAND INCLUDES A**  
22 **RESIDENCE.**

23           **(3) BEFORE MAKING A PESTICIDE APPLICATION TO A PROPERTY**  
24 **CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT TO THE PROPERTY OF A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL, A**  
25 **LICENSEE SHALL NOTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL:**

26                   **(I) BY TELEPHONE THE DAY BEFORE, OR THE MORNING OF, A**  
27 **PLANNED PESTICIDE APPLICATION; OR**

28                   **(II) IN PERSON, OR BY A WRITTEN NOTICE DELIVERED TO THE**  
29 **RESIDENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL, BEFORE THE PESTICIDE IS APPLIED TO A**  
30 **CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT PROPERTY.**

1           **(4) ON REQUEST, A LICENSEE OR PUBLIC AGENCY PERMITTEE SHALL**  
2 **PROVIDE AN INDIVIDUAL NOTIFIED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING**  
3 **WRITTEN INFORMATION:**

4           **(I) THE NAME OF THE LICENSEE;**

5           **(II) THE LICENSEE'S MARYLAND PESTICIDE BUSINESS LICENSE**  
6 **NUMBER;**

7           **(III) THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE LICENSEE;**

8           **(IV) THE COMMON NAME OF THE PESTICIDE OR ACTIVE**  
9 **INGREDIENT TO BE APPLIED AND THE EPA REGISTRATION NUMBER; AND**

10          **(V) ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

11           **1. AN ORIGINAL OR A LEGIBLE COPY OF THE CURRENT**  
12 **PESTICIDE PRODUCT LABEL;**

13           **2. AN ORIGINAL OR A LEGIBLE COPY OF THE PORTION**  
14 **OF THE CURRENT PESTICIDE PRODUCT LABEL CONTAINING PRECAUTIONARY**  
15 **STATEMENTS REGARDING HAZARDS TO HUMANS OR ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
16 **HAZARDS, IF ANY; OR**

17           **3. A DOCUMENT CONTAINING APPROPRIATE HEALTH,**  
18 **SAFETY, OR PRECAUTIONARY INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE**  
19 **PESTICIDE LABEL AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION.**

20          **(5) (I) WHEN MAKING A PESTICIDE APPLICATION TO A PROPERTY**  
21 **CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT TO THE PROPERTY OF A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL WHO**  
22 **HAS INDICATED THE PRESENCE OF A DOMESTIC ANIMAL OR POLLINATOR GARDEN**  
23 **ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROPERTY, THE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR SHALL EXERCISE**  
24 **PARTICULAR CARE TO AVOID APPLYING PESTICIDE NEAR THE POLLINATOR GARDEN**  
25 **OR DOMESTIC ANIMAL OR ALLOWING ANY PESTICIDE DRIFT TO CONTAMINATE A**  
26 **POLLINATOR GARDEN OR DOMESTIC ANIMAL.**

27          **(II) THE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR SHALL DOCUMENT THE**  
28 **MEASURES TAKEN UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH AND INCLUDE THE DOCUMENTATION IN**  
29 **THE RECORDS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

30          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2026.