



AmericanCoatings
ASSOCIATIONSM

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Nick Mosby

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1542 – *Public Health – Lead Poisoning Testing Program and Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund*

The American Coatings Association (ACA) is a voluntary, non-profit trade association working to advance the needs of the paint and coatings industry and the professionals who work in it. The organization represents paint and coatings manufacturers, raw materials suppliers, distributors, and technical professionals. ACA advises members and advances positions on legislative, regulatory and judicial issues, based on a thorough evaluation of issues through experience and understanding of the paint and coatings industry. On behalf of ACA, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1542.

House Bill 1542 dramatically reforms Maryland's current lead screening, prevention and intervention programs. As proposed, the new framework will not enhance the current commitment of the State to increase screening and will likely divert attention and resources away from fundamental prevention-focused activities. Effective childhood lead exposure prevention programs must be focused on a multi-source, multi-pathway problem. Maryland has been a leader in passing sound and balanced legislation which sets duties of care for landlords and others and gives incentives for meeting those duties in a complementary way. Similarly, Maryland has prioritized a robust prevention program aimed at increasing screening for lead in order to ensure early intervention. The proposed approach to increased screening reflected in House Bill 1542 would assess a fee on all paint manufactures, regardless of whether they ever manufactured paint that contained lead. The bill also requires providers who are reimbursed for screening for lead by insurance carriers to contribute their reimbursement to the fund which in essence penalizes the providers for doing the screening they have been asked to do and could lead to a decrease in screening, not an increase.

Over the last half century, ACA has actively worked with many governments and nonprofit organizations to provide education and training on the dangers of childhood lead poisoning and the safe removal of lead-based paint from residential housing. ACA urges this committee to stay focused on the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning and to reject this bill.

For more information call:

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