



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1025

Pesticides- Carbofuran – Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage

Date: February 24, 2021

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee From: Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1025 which would require the State to address the illegal use of carbofuran and to eliminate stockpiles of carbofuran in the State. Carbofuran is harmful to marine life, including crabs and clams that inhabit the Chesapeake Bay and are a vital part of Maryland's seafood economy.

This legislation will protect Maryland from federally prohibited pesticides by closing a state law loophole

The US Environmental Protection Agency removed the pesticide carbofuran from approved use in 2009. However, the pesticide may still exist in Maryland as those who purchased the pesticide prior to the federal action may be storing stockpiles. This legislation will require the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources carry out the intent of the federal ban. Environmental protection is key to conservation of national resources, including the national treasure of the Chesapeake Bay.

Carbofuran is harmful to crabs and clams that are part of Maryland's fishery

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation advocates for sustainable fisheries in Maryland and works to support fisheries, through fighting the causes of dead zones of low oxygen throughout the Bay. Aquatic invertebrates, particularly crustaceans and insect larvae, are sensitive to carbofuran exposure. Studies on carbofuran describe affects to the central nervous system of crustaceans impairing their physiology, behavior, survival and reproduction. Carbofuran physically sorbs to particles and can be transported by dust in agricultural areas to deposit during rainfall runoff events at concentrations beyond what would be expected from the most recent application rate.

Carbofuran may weaken the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and threaten the Bay's recovery

The effect of carbofuran on crustaceans, including crabs and clams in the Chesapeake Bay may lead to further ecosystem effects changing the balance of predators and prey. A balanced ecosystem is integral to the Bay's recovery. The potential for ongoing harm to Maryland's iconic blue crab fishery as well as the myriad insect larvae and other crustacean species that support the base of our aquatic and estuarine food web of the Chesapeake Bay is too great to allow the potential use of this known toxic chemical.

CBF urges the Committee's favorable report on HB 1025. For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.