

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



Reply to:

DATE: January 19, 2021
TO: Members, Environment and Transportation
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: HB 129 Environment – Mold Inspections – Standards, Reporting, and Penalties

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) **opposes HB 129** with respect to the regulation of mold inspections.

While the Conference appreciates the intent to increase accountability for these activities, we believe the scope of the bill is too broad sweeping in nature. Additionally, local environmental health programs do not have the financial or staffing resources to perform or even oversee inspections as currently proposed, nor sufficient resources to train staff to provide the professional expertise required to participate in this effort as there are estimates of thousands of species of molds and no regulatory standards. The estimated costs of implementation alone would be in the millions of dollars and annual inspections will not result in better outcomes.

Given the extreme lack of resources, funding, lack of expertise, and workload currently handled at the local level as posed by the Conference, we are opposed to HB 129.

Accordingly, we request the Committee give HB 129 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact me at 240-777-3840.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Welch, President
Conference of Environmental Health Directors