



(HB387/SB268)

Move Pesticide Regulation from MDA to MDE  
Favorable

Once thought to be a blessing, pesticides, inappropriately used, are now more often a curse.

Pesticides have been shown to lead to cancer, reproductive disorders, nervous and hormonal system disruption, adverse birth and developmental outcomes, including congenital abnormalities, pediatric cancers, neurobehavioral and cognitive deficits, and asthma.

Pesticides are harming our beneficial insect population, leading to dangerous levels of pollinator loss and threatening our food supply – which is already under stress due to climate change.

When improperly controlled, monitored and used, pesticides damage our ecosystems, with more than three-quarters of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters now impaired by chemical contaminants.

Plus, there are thousands of pesticides, many more than have been vetted or tested.

We need better testing, oversight and monitoring.

By making the Dept. of the Environment the lead agency on pesticide oversight, with input from the Depts. of Health and Agriculture, we can utilize each agency according to its expertise and Maryland can finally have appropriate oversight of these toxic chemicals.

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