



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 2, 2022

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Letter of Information - House Bill 248 – Legionnaires’ Disease Prevention Act

Dear Chair Barve:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association’s (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 248. Dedicated caregivers at Maryland’s nonprofit hospitals and health systems care for millions of people each year, and we appreciate your efforts to maintain their health through thoughtful regulation of the environments in which they live and work.

Maryland hospitals are held to strict standards by The Joint Commission, the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Hospitals must follow rigorous standards to obtain accreditation, including water management plans specifically addressing Legionella and other waterborne pathogens. These standards were updated as recently as January 2021 and considers both the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 188 (Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems) and the CDC toolkit.^{1,2}

For more information, please contact:
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mpaddy@mhaonline.org

¹ The Joint Commission. (n.d.). “[Life Safety & Environment of Care Document List and Review Tool](#).”

² Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. US Department of Health & Human Services. (June 24, 2021). “[Developing a Water Management Program to Reduce Legionella Growth & Spread in Buildings](#).”