



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: February 9, 2022

BILL NO/TITLE: House Bill 371 – Environment - Salt Applicator Certification Program - Establishment

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation Committee

POSITION: Oppose

Maryland Motor Truck Association appreciates the interest in using practices to reduce salt runoff into our state's waterways; however, as written we are opposed to HB371 and encourage the state to consider a voluntary program similar to that offered in the state of New Hampshire.

As drafted, HB371 requires all businesses who apply salt to their sidewalks, parking lots, or roads to participate in a new salt applicator certification program. This new program mandates the payment of an unspecified fee, keeping records of every salt application for three years, and submission of an annual report to the Department of the Environment. There is no minimum threshold to determine eligibility. State and local government employees are not covered under this mandate; however, private contractors who they hire would be subject to it.

In lieu of this broad mandate, MMTA encourages the General Assembly to model its legislation after a similar **voluntary** program launched in New Hampshire. The NH Department of Environmental Services "Green SnowPro," salt applicator certification program offers snow and ice management professionals training and certification in state-of-the-art salt reduction practices that prioritize public safety while mitigating usage. In return for their efforts, commercial salt applicators completing the program, and the property owners or managers who hire them, are granted limited liability protection against damages arising from snow and ice conditions assuming they are using best practices for winter road, parking lot, and sidewalk maintenance. Fees range from \$25 to \$350.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient, and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile, or type of operation.

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