



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy*

**Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

---

**HB0319: Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements**

**Hearing Date: 02/21/23**

**Committee: Health and Government Operations**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Delegate Stein and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA) would like to express support for House Bill 319.

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, known as PFAS or “forever chemicals” pose significant risks to public health. These chemicals are linked to serious long-term health impacts including but not limited to birth defects, immunosuppression, high cholesterol and a variety of cancers.<sup>2</sup> Despite increasing efforts being made to reduce PFAS exposures across the country, research shows that extremely high levels of these chemicals are present in food crops and agricultural land<sup>3</sup>, resulting in exposures to the public through food and drinking water. As of December 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency initiated a ban of all PFAS chemicals from inert ingredients in pesticide products, and PFAS are not to be used in any registered pesticide product in the US.<sup>1</sup> In order to ensure the public health benefits of this ban are maintained, this bill makes certain that testing for PFAS in mosquito control products is enforced and that producers are liable to attest to the legitimacy of the results from their products.

This bill also prohibits the sale and use of pesticides containing PFAS in Maryland by 2026. Pesticides do not require the addition of PFAS chemicals to be effective, so crop losses are not of concern. Additionally, this bill requires that the industries producing pesticides are responsible for paying for and submitting proof of sufficient product testing. Prohibiting these chemicals in our state is a crucial step to reducing their accumulation in our environments and bodies, and the harms that come with it.

Maryland took major steps in reducing PFAS exposures last year by banning its use in food packaging, firefighting foam, and carpeting materials, so now is the time to expand upon these protections and ban PFAS in pesticides. Reducing PFAS contaminants in our state will make all Maryland communities safer.

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. (2022, December 14). *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Pesticide and Other Packaging*. EPA. Retrieved February 15, 2023, from <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging#:~:text=In%20December%202022%2C%20the%20Agency,in%20any%20registered%20pesticide%20product>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, November 1). *Potential health effects of Pfas Chemicals*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html)

<sup>3</sup> Steven Lasee, Kaylin McDermott, Naveen Kumar, Jennifer Guelfo, Paxton Payton, Zhao Yang, Todd A. Anderson. Targeted analysis and Total Oxidizable Precursor assay of several insecticides for PFAS. *Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters*. Volume 3, 2022, 100067, ISSN 2666-9110, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hazl.2022.100067>.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge a favorable report of HB0319.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

**Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)**  
**PO Box 7045 · 6801 Oak Hall Ln · Columbia, MD 21045-9998**  
**GetInfo@MdPHA.org [www.mdpha.org](http://www.mdpha.org) 443.475.0242**