

**House Bill 701**  
**Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers – Purchase, Use, and Sale – Prohibition (Clean**  
**Air Quiet Communities Act - February 11, 2025**  
**FAVORABLE**

I would like to urge **the passage of HB701**, which prohibits the state from purchasing gasoline-powered leaf blowers (GLB) beginning July 1, 2025, and then prohibits their use beginning January 1, 2027. This bill will encourage the manufacture and sale of more environmentally friendly leaf removal devices for state use.

Curbing the use of GLBs aligns with [Maryland's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan](#) which calls for a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030. House Bill 701 would reduce climate, environmental, and acute health impacts from the use of GLBs. This noisy equipment operates at a low frequency which penetrates walls more easily than the higher frequency of electric blowers. In fact, a GLB used in a neighborhood at 65 decibels emits a noise that can be heard up to 23 homes away from the place of use compared to just 6 homes for electric blowers.

GLBs emit large quantities of harmful air pollutants. They generate particulates which are inhaled by equipment operators and nearby residents and contribute to regional air pollution problems. GLBs emit significant quantities of ozone-forming chemicals, carbon monoxide, and other toxic air pollutants. GLBs also generate CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 3 to 9 times higher than electric-powered blowers, contributing to climate change effects. [A 2011 study by Edmunds](#) found that a two-stroke gasoline-powered **leaf blower spewed out more pollution than a 6,200-pound Ford F-150 SVT Raptor pickup truck**. This type of pollution causes or contributes to premature mortality, cardiovascular disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, premature births, and other adverse health impacts.<sup>1</sup> Even short-term exposure can be harmful. **Children, seniors, people with chronic illnesses, and landscape workers are at greatest risk**. Over 170 jurisdictions nationwide have enacted laws that ban the sale and use of GLBs. It makes sense that Maryland takes similar action to D.C. since landscapers often work in both regions.

In addition to their environmental harm, GLBs contribute to multiple negative health outcomes. Many studies confirm that low-frequency noise is a powerful stressor. In addition to cognitive alterations, the development of GLBs disrupts our work, interferes with children's schooling, and lowers quality of life. All three of my children have mentioned how distracting the noise is to them when they are at school trying to concentrate, and I have seen how much it affects their ability to focus when doing homework at home. In addition, GLBs force birds and frogs to move away from the noise, while plant life and pollinators are disrupted by the force and heat from operation of the equipment. Pets are affected as well. My own pets get severely distressed when the landscapers show up, and will run and hide until they are gone.

These machines do more harm than good and therefore, **I ask for your support for HB0399 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Araújo Alves J, Neto Paiva F, Torres Silva L, Remoaldo P. Low-Frequency Noise and Its Main Effects on Human Health—A Review of the Literature between 2016 and 2019. *Applied Sciences*. 2020; 10(15):5205. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app10155205>