



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Chemical weapons neutralization and destruction requires a good deal of planning, adequate training and personal protective equipment, and medical/occupational health surveillance, as well as contingency planning for possible unusual conditions or events. The military and its contractors have experience and expertise in this area.

State and local emergency response personnel have expertise that should be utilized as research facilities conduct contingency planning for possible unusual conditions or events. Contingency planning, including timely notification procedures, should be trained and exercised with those who may respond to a given research facility during an emergency to ensure the health and safety of these individuals as well as the public.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH
Secretary