



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

HB 1367

Lead Testing and Inspections - Falsifying Information - Penalty

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 4, 2025
From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1367.

Bill Summary

HB 1367 institutes a civil penalty not-to-exceed \$50,000 for a person who falsifies information in a lead-contaminated dust testing report.

Position Rationale

Establishing a penalty for fraudulent lead inspection reporting is essential to deter inaccurate reporting and maintain the credibility and reliability of the lead testing system in Maryland. Falsifying reports not only jeopardizes public health but also undermines the efforts of public health officials working to prevent lead poisoning. Fraudulent reports can lead to unsafe living conditions for tenants and residents, particularly children and pregnant women who are at the highest risk for lead exposure. Suspected fraudulent reporting investigations are resource intensive as MDE must notify property owners and tenants of the potential or actual fraud and the associated risks. These investigations can divert valuable resources from the core mission of lead poisoning prevention. Investigating fraudulent reports adds an administrative burden to MDE and can delay the identification of actual lead hazards. By establishing clear and substantial penalties for fraud, HB 1367 would ensure that MDE can focus resources and better protect public health.

Conclusion

HB 1367 would enhance the state's lead poisoning prevention efforts by imposing strong penalties for fraudulent lead inspection reports and ensure that the health and safety of Marylanders is protected from the dangers of lead exposure. The measures outlined in the bill are critical for maintaining transparency, accountability, and trust in the lead testing process. Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1367.

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