



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

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: House Bill (HB) 62 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 62 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements.

Chemical weapons neutralization and destruction requires a significant amount of planning, adequate training, 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 when 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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH  
Secretary