



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 5, 2025

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1342 – FIRST READER

SHORT TITLE: PESTICIDE AND PEST CONTROL - STATE-OWNED PROPERTY - PESTICIDE USE RESTRICTIONS AND POLLINATOR HABITAT

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

DNR appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation to bolster pollinator populations and protect their habitats on state-owned lands, as it aligns with the department’s ongoing efforts to restore natural ecosystems and provide opportunities for pollinators to flourish. The Department has been working with the sponsors and with the Maryland Department of Agriculture on amendments to the bill, including to exempt DNR. We are supportive of this amendment and appreciate the recognition of the Department’s existing Pollinator Habitat Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is noted that many of the bill's objectives are already addressed by existing Sustainable Forestry certifications, and many land units already have robust Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) in place, perhaps leading to some redundancy of effort. Additionally, DNR already has in place a Pollinator Habitat Plan for the conservation of pollinators and pollinator habitat on DNR lands for the benefit of Maryland’s citizens (https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/documents/pollinatorhabitatplan_june2017.pdf).

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill restricts pesticide use on state property to specific pesticides and purposes. It mandates the Department of Agriculture to create a model pesticide and pollinator habitat management plan, which each managing unit of state government must adapt for their specific tracts of land.

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