



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain
House Bill 1547
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Support
Committee: Economic Matters
Date: March 13, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1547.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1547 alters the conditions for an affected property owner to satisfy the Modified Risk Reduction (MRR) standard. The bill removes the current requirement that an environmental investigation must first conclude a defect at the property before the owner is forced to act. Under this legislation, a property owner is required to meet the MRR standard within 30 days of receiving written notice that a resident at risk has an Elevated Blood Lead level (EBL). This effectively decouples the health event (the EBL) from the property investigation, making the EBL notice alone the triggering event for enforcement.

Position Rationale

This legislation is a vital step in protecting Marylanders by ensuring a swift, decisive response to lead exposure. HB 1547 returns the law to its original, pre-2019 provisions, making the receipt of a Notice of Elevated Blood Lead Level the sole triggering event for modified risk reduction. This crucial change means that the moment a child or pregnant woman is identified as having an elevated blood lead level, critical protective measures and hazard reductions can begin right away. As of 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) blood lead reference level is 3.5 µg/dL. The lowering of this defined level brings many more children and tenants into the net of Affected Properties subject to a Notice of EBL. By requiring compliance within 30 days of a written notice HB 1547 prioritizes immediate health and safety.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1547.