

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg
Before the House Economic Matters Committee
In Support of
House Bill 1547
Environment - Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing –
Modified Risk Reduction Standard

Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee:

Under current law, if a child or pregnant woman tests positive for lead poisoning while living in a rental property, landlords don't have to fix the lead hazard until the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) investigates and confirms it. Scheduling and completing an investigation can take weeks or even months, causing prolonged lead exposure to children and pregnant women. House Bill 1547 would remove the requirement that MDE must first confirm the lead hazard through an investigation before the landlord must act.

Children exposed to lead in their home are put at increased risk for learning disabilities, developmental delays, and other serious health problems. HB 1547 would remove an unnecessary delay in addressing dangerous lead exposure. The bill requires that once a landlord receives notice that a child or pregnant tenant in their property has an elevated blood lead level (EBL), the landlord must very quickly come into compliance with the existing risk reduction standards.

If this bill were to be passed, and a landlord were to receive notice of EBL that prompts a response, the landlord would hire a MDE accredited lead contractor to inspect the property and perform the required risk reduction work. Typically, a contractor would examine painted surfaces and points where dust commonly forms. In addition, contractors would repair or stabilize chipping paint, install protective caps on windowsills, and address any structural defects that may cause paint to deteriorate. After repair work is completed, MDE accredited contractors perform cleaning using HEPA vacuums and detergents to remove lead dust. Afterwards, a MDE certified lead

inspector would conduct dust testing to ensure that the home meets Maryland's lead safety standards.

House Bill 1547 does not eliminate the role of the Maryland Department of the Environment. This bill also does not change existing investigation requirements. It simply ensures that landlords take immediate precautionary action rather than waiting for an investigation. **For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1547.**

March 13th, 2026