



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

March 4th, 2026

Ref: HB 1237 – OPPOSE

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the E&T Committee.

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI), I write to respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 1237. While we appreciate the intent of improving transparency within pesticide and pest control service contracts, we are concerned that the bill, as drafted, would impose significant administrative burdens on licensed applicators and raise substantial privacy concerns for both companies and their customers.

HB 1237 establishes new requirements for pesticide business licensees that maintain subscription pest control contracts with residential customers. These requirements would create extensive new recordkeeping, disclosure, and reporting obligations that go well beyond existing state and federal pesticide regulatory frameworks, which already provide robust protections for consumers and the environment.

Maryland's green industry is composed largely of small and mid-sized locally owned businesses that provide essential lawn care, pest management, and landscape services to homeowners and commercial properties. These businesses already comply with comprehensive licensing, recordkeeping, and reporting rules under the Maryland Department of Agriculture's pesticide regulatory program. Layering additional contract-specific mandates onto these existing obligations would create duplicative paperwork requirements, new compliance systems, and increased legal review costs—diverting resources away from service delivery, workforce investment, and environmental stewardship.

In particular, the bill's apparent focus on subscription-based residential service contracts would require businesses to redesign customer agreements, modify billing and scheduling software, and maintain new documentation systems solely for Maryland customers.

MAGI is also deeply concerned about the privacy implications of the bill. Many pest control and lawn care contracts contain sensitive information about a customer's home, property conditions, pest issues, and treatment schedules. Requiring expanded disclosures, retention, or potential reporting of this information raises legitimate concerns about data security and the protection of homeowner privacy. Any statutory requirement that compels the collection, storage, or transmission of customer-specific service data increases the risk of inadvertent disclosure or misuse, particularly for small businesses that may not have extensive IT infrastructure.

Furthermore, the bill may create uncertainty about what specific customer information must be retained or disclosed, exposing businesses to enforcement risk for unintentional technical violations rather than substantive environmental or safety concerns. This could have a chilling effect on service offerings, reduce flexibility in customizing pest management plans, and ultimately limit options for Maryland homeowners seeking professional pest control and



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landscape services.

MAGI strongly supports science-based pesticide regulation, consumer transparency, and environmental stewardship. However, these goals must be balanced with practical, workable compliance frameworks that do not impose disproportionate administrative and legal burdens on licensed professionals who are already operating under strict regulatory oversight. For these reasons, the Maryland Association of Green Industries respectfully urges an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 1237. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Committee on alternative approaches that enhance consumer awareness while protecting business confidentiality, reducing administrative complexity, and safeguarding the privacy of Maryland residents.

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