



Date: March 4, 2026

HB 1237 - Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

MaGIC Position: **Opposed** Committee: Environment and Transportation

On behalf of the Maryland Green Industries Council (MGIC), representing landscape contractors, arborists, lawn care professionals, and related green industry businesses across the State, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1237.

House Bill 1237 would establish new requirements for pesticide business licensees serving residential customers. Specifically, the bill would create a Neighbor Notification Registry requiring advance notification of certain pesticide applications. While MaGIC shares the goal of protecting pollinators and promoting transparency, the bill as drafted creates significant operational, economic, and legal challenges for Maryland's professional landscape and arboricultural businesses.

Maryland's landscapers and arborists are largely small, locally owned businesses that rely on timely, weather-dependent service delivery. The bill's notification and registry requirements would impose administrative burdens that are disproportionate to the scale of these operations. Real-time scheduling adjustments due to weather, pest outbreaks, or client emergencies are routine in our industry. Mandatory, 24-hour, notification requirements tied to each application could delay essential treatments, resulting in increased pest pressure, declining plant health, and higher long-term pesticide use rather than less.

Arborists and landscape professionals frequently respond to emergent issues such as invasive insects, tree disease outbreaks, or safety hazards. The inability to promptly treat these issues without navigating registry compliance could lead to greater environmental harm, tree loss, and public safety risks.

The bill's neighbor notification registry introduces new liability exposures for contractors. Landscape professionals could face enforcement risk or private disputes if registry data are incomplete, inaccurate, or not updated in real time. Businesses should not be held responsible for errors or omissions in a state-maintained registry beyond their control. Mandatory disclosure of treatment schedules may conflict with contractual obligations and raise legitimate security concerns.

The green industry supports thousands of skilled jobs across Maryland, including certified arborists, licensed applicators, horticultural technicians, and seasonal employees. Increased compliance costs, administrative overhead, and scheduling inefficiencies will disproportionately affect small and mid-sized firms, leading to higher consumer costs.

Maryland's landscapers and arborists are environmental stewards who maintain the health, safety, and beauty of our residential and commercial landscapes while adhering to strict professional standards. House Bill 1237, as drafted, imposes burdensome and duplicative requirements that will hinder timely pest management, increase costs, and potentially worsen environmental outcomes.

For these reasons, the Maryland Green Industries Council respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1237 an unfavorable report.

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