



March 4, 2026

Maryland General Assembly
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairperson Marc Korman
Vice Chairperson Michele Guyton

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1237 – PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS - SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRY ESTABLISHMENT.

Dear Chairperson, Korman, Vice Chairperson Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland State Pest Control Association (MSPCA) represents licensed pest management professionals who serve communities across the state, protecting public health, food safety, and Maryland homes from destructive and disease-carrying pests. **We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 1237 and ask that you oppose this legislation due to its redundancy, regulatory overreach, privacy risks, and significant cost impacts on Maryland residents and small businesses.**

HB 1237 creates redundancy within an already comprehensive oversight system. Pesticide usage and applicators are highly regulated under an extensive, science-based framework. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) work together through cooperative agreements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Additionally, Maryland currently operates a Pesticide Sensitive Individuals Registry with defined parameters and notification requirements.

HB 1237 creates a secondary registry with its own administrative requirements, duplicating the work required by a pest management company, and does not address the existing gaps in the system. The bill expands notification requirements far beyond medically sensitive individuals. The bill also does not define key terms such as "adjacent" or the "least toxic effective chemical option," creating inconsistent enforcement risks for licensed applicators.

The new registry also creates major privacy concerns for Maryland residents. The mandatory neighbor notification would unintentionally reveal sensitive household pest infestations and violate the privacy of Maryland citizens. The bill also requires pest control companies to collect and store third-party contact information, increasing cybersecurity and liability concerns for small businesses.



Lastly, HB 1237 would reduce route efficiency, delay weather-dependent treatments, and require new administrative systems that create unnecessary business operation complications. This will ultimately lead to higher costs for Maryland residents, especially working families and seniors.

On behalf of MSPCA, I respectfully ask for your opposition to HB 1237, as it duplicates existing protections, introduces unclear standards, increases privacy risks, and adds unnecessary cost burdens without improving safety or environmental outcomes. MSPCA is committed to protecting our communities, and we welcome the opportunity to address any of the Committee's concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles Barton

Charles Barton
State Policy Affairs Representative (SPAR)
Maryland State Pest Control Association (MSPCA)
cbarton@americanpest.net