



Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice-Chair
House Environment & Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1237 Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry- OPPOSED

March 2, 2026

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) and the Mid-Atlantic Sport Field Management Association (MASFMA), we write this letter in *opposition* of: House Bill 1237 Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) is a non-profit organization that represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers. The Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA) is a non-profit organization that is composed of sports turf field managers and workers from Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia. Once again, MASFMA has partnered with Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) this year to bring a more unified front from all aspects of our industry.

As proposed, HB 1237 aims to establish specific requirements for pesticide business licensees with subscription contracts for pest control with residential customers. The bill mandates the establishment of a Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry to register individuals interested in receiving notice of certain pesticide applications. Additionally, it requires the Department of Agriculture to prepare a list from the Registry and distribute it to certain licensees.

While the intent behind this legislation is part of Maryland's efforts to enhance pesticide application practices and protect pollinators while ensuring proper notification to neighbors – these practices are already required. In Maryland, pesticide applicators certified in the public health category must notify pesticide-sensitive individuals registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture before making a pesticide application to their property. This notification can be done by telephone the day before or the morning of the planned application, or in person or by written notice delivered to the residence of the registered individual. Failing to follow these notification requirements could result in civil penalties or suspension of any license, certificate, permit, or registered employee identification card.

Moreover, under Maryland's Pesticide Applicator's Law, administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, approves training courses in the handling, storage and use of pesticides, conducts examinations to determine that pesticide applicators are competent to follow prescribed pest control

practices, enforces federal laws on the sale and use of pesticides, and investigates pesticide accidents or incidents and consumer complaints on pesticide misuse.

The passage of Maryland House Bill 1237 could have significant impacts on licensees involved in pest control and related services. Businesses would need to ensure they are compliant with the new requirements set by the bill, which may involve updating their operations and training staff to meet the new standards. Moreover, licensees would be required to notify customers about pesticide applications, which could affect scheduling and customer service.

As written, HB1237 would also require, upon request, the following be satisfied by a licensee:

- 1.) Provide notification with written information that specifies: (1) the name of the licensee; (2) the licensee's Maryland Pesticide Business License Number; (3) Telephone number, the common name of the pesticide or active ingredient to be applied; (4) the EPA registration number, *and*
- 2.) One of the following:
 - An original or legible copy of the current pesticide product label;
 - An original or legible copy of the current of the portion of the current pesticide product label containing precautionary statements regarding hazards to human or animals and environmental hazards, if any; or
 - A document containing appropriate health, safety, or precautionary information that has been taken from the pesticide label and approved by the Department before distribution.

These new mandates would create additional administrative burdens and costs on licensees which are unnecessary. For these reasons we at MTC and MASFMA are opposed to HB1237.

Thank you,



Logan Freeman
President, MTC



Clint Steele
President. MASFMA