



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1237

DATE: March 4, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Ruth

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Pesticide Applications - Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

House Bill 1237 would require the Maryland Department of Agriculture to establish a Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry to allow individuals to receive notification of certain nearby pesticide applications. Companies applying pesticides would be required to notify Registry participants before applying pesticides on adjacent property.

Montgomery County is home to many pesticide-sensitive populations and residents and businesses who have committed time, money, and years of effort to establish pollinator gardens, vegetable gardens, and wildlife habitat. Pesticide applications that involve contact sprays and drift across property lines cause avoidable exposures to pets, children, the elderly, and other sensitive individuals, damage to pollinators and garden plants, and exposure to vegetable and fruit crops. The County regularly receives complaints regarding exposure and damage caused by mosquito sprays, shrub and tree applications, and garden applications on adjacent properties.

This bill would ensure that customers and adjacent neighbors can be aware of forthcoming subscription applications so that they can leave their homes, close their windows, keep pets and people inside, protect their gardens, or track pesticide damages from drifting applications. This is a reasonable protection that should be afforded to customers and adjacent property owners, and responsible pesticide applicators should be able to comply.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 1237.