



**HB1237 Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and
Registry Establishment
House Environment and Transportation
March 4, 2026**

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Pesticide Education and the Smart on Pesticides Coalition, comprised of 110 organizations and businesses, support this bill's goal for more Marylanders to be apprised of pesticide use resulting from certified applicators servicing their immediate neighbors so that they can take precautions to protect their families and homes from exposures.

Since 1988, the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture has provided such a registry for notification offered to Maryland residents who provide a physician's letter certifying the need for notification based on the person's existing health issues.

HB 1237 makes this important service available to all Maryland residents providing them with a right to know regarding pesticide applications next door to them that can drift onto their property, potentially compromising their families and their pet's health, harming pollinators in addition to contaminating their property and well water.

Today we offer several very friendly amendments.
These include:

1. Strike references to least toxic. Sadly, today the EPA Office of Pesticides has so weakened protections that these labels are misleading and could imply safety where there is none.
2. Removing requirement that the applicant must provide phone numbers of nearby neighbors. This is not always possible. Providing these addresses is possible.
3. Require MDA to update the list at least quarterly. Once a year means someone who needs to know about pesticide application could go as long as a year before they get any notifications.
4. We would like the neighbor to get both the pesticide name AND the active ingredient to help them understand what is being used next door.

Expanding the registry is vitally important to have neighbors better informed about nearby pesticide use. This bill takes a straightforward and streamlined approach. With these amendments we urge a favorable report.

Amendments HB 1237 Pesticide Application – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

Page 2 Lines 25-27 The term least toxic implies a level of safety which most often does not exist, nor are certified applicators expert in this area, given that they rely on using EPA-registered pesticides that aren't labeled for "least toxicity," other than the label currently using signal words "caution," "warning" or "danger" that only relate to possible acute symptoms and do not address the multitude of serious, long-term, life-altering and life-threatening adverse health impacts (including, based on extensive research, certain cancers and neurological, reproductive, respiratory and developmental impacts). Note: pesticide-related vendor services applicators were asked what "least-toxic" meant to them in a survey, and they answered they did not know.

Amendment: Strike lines 25 – 27 entirely

Page 4 Lines 9-11 Many people do not know the name and phone number of neighbors. Providing the addresses is sufficient.

Amendment: (I) REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE **THEIR** NAME, STREET ADDRESS, [delete AND] TELEPHONE NUMBER [add , AND EMAIL] OF THE APPLICANT [add AND THE ADDRESS] OF EACH CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT PROPERTY [add OR PROPERTIES;]

Page 5 Line 16 Require the department to update list and distribute it at least quarterly. Families should not be asked to wait up to a year before they are notified of pesticide applications.

Amendment: AT LEAST [delete ONCE] [add **QUARTERLY**], THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE LIST TO EACH LICENSEE.

Page 6 line 8 The pesticide applicator should provide the name of the pesticide AND active ingredient.

Amendment: (IV) THE COMMON NAME OF THE PESTICIDE [delete OR] [add **AND**] ACTIVE