

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michelle Guyton, Vice-Chair
House Health & Government Operations Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bruce Sheppard, I am a constituent and licensed professional serving customers in Maryland. I am writing to express my concerns with Maryland House Bill 1237.

Maryland already has a strong, science-based system for regulating pesticides. The Maryland Department of Agriculture oversees licensing, training, and enforcement for professional applicators in coordination with the safety standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Licensed professionals are required to follow strict label directions and regulatory requirements to ensure pesticides are used safely and responsibly.

Maryland also currently maintains a pesticide notification registry designed to notify individuals with documented medical sensitivities before nearby applications occur. That system serves an important public-health purpose.

House Bill 1237 would convert the current health-based registry into a broad opt-in notification system without meaningful guardrails. This expansion goes well beyond the registry's original purpose and would create real operational challenges for businesses like mine.

Landscape and lawn care companies would be required to manage a much larger notification system while also adjusting routes and service schedules to remain compliant. These added administrative responsibilities would increase costs and place additional strain on businesses that are already operating in a tight labor market.

Furthermore, House Bill 1237 would significantly impair the important public health work performed by lawn care and landscape companies across Maryland by reducing our ability to utilize critical tools for the control of disease carrying insects.

The bill also raises tremendous privacy concerns for customers. Many property owners expect a reasonable level of discretion when they hire a licensed professional to perform lawn care or pest management services, and expanding notification requirements in this way could unintentionally disclose private service arrangements.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give Maryland House Bill 1237 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,
Bruce Sheppard
WEED MAN

