

Testimony HB1237 Pesticide Notification Act DAC Fa

Uploaded by: Debbie Cohn

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB1237 - Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment
Submitting: Deborah A. Cohn
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members

I am urging support of HB1237 – Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment.

I live in suburban Montgomery County where the properties of five neighbors are contiguous to our property. We have intentionally removed most of our grass, replacing it primarily with native species of all sizes. In spring and summer, I enjoy opening our windows to hear and observe the numerous insects, birds and small mammals attracted to our garden.

Most commercial contracts for mosquito sprays use pyrethroids, which are a class of broad spectrum insecticides that disrupt the nervous systems of insects, causing paralysis and death. In short, they are neurotoxins.

I have been deeply concerned about drift of pyrethroids onto our lawn from the properties of two of our neighbors. The first year two neighbors contracted for periodic sprays, I noticed a significant diminution of bees on our property. Having been subject to aerial spraying of stronger mosquito pesticides in Miami as a child, i.e., at an age when people are particularly sensitive to their impacts on neurological diseases, I was also quite concerned for my own health.

Reducing mosquito populations is important. As our local temperatures and warm weather season increases, dangerous mosquito borne diseases are migrating into our area. But increasingly, a broad range of safer and effective alternatives are available. As a result of providing information to my neighbors (and others in our general community) on these safer methods, I was unable to convince one neighbor to terminate service. I was able to convince the other neighbor, but for the duration of their existing contract they were unable to notify me of when sprays would occur since they received little notice. This is precisely what HB1237 would correct.

We can provide information to neighbors about safer alternatives, but we cannot count on them to utilize these safer alternatives. Instead, we need the protections afforded by HB1237. I urge you, for the safety of vulnerable Marylanders and, in addition, to protect diversity of local species, to issue a favorable report on HB1237 and provide us a registry so we can be notified of when sprays will occur.

For these reasons, I urge this Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on HB1199.

HB 1237 - MoCo DEP (GA 26) FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett Fitzgerald

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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.

HB1237 - Ruth - Sponsor Testimony - FAV.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheila Ruth

Position: FAV

SHEILA RUTH
Legislative District 44B
Baltimore County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Chair, Labor Subcommittee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 326
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3802
800-492-7122 Ext. 3802
Sheila.Ruth@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1237
PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS -
SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRY ESTABLISHMENT

Delegate Sheila Ruth

March 4, 2026

Maryland has one of the highest population densities of all US states, so many of us understand the pros and cons of living in close proximity to our neighbors. Another issue we face in a climate like ours is dealing with pests, especially with our humid summers. It's no surprise that many of our neighbors don't want to deal with these nuisances and so hire businesses to treat their property for pesticides. However, despite the fact that most only harbor ill-will to pests and not their neighbors, these treatments can end up causing harm to their health and property regardless as some people, flora, and fauna are more sensitive to pesticides. This is what HB1237 aims to address in two important ways: by regulating certain conduct of residential pest control businesses and by creating a new registry to track treatment.

Firstly, this bill will ensure best practices are followed by requiring all pest control businesses hired for treatment subscription contracts with residential customers to inspect the resident's property before pesticides are used and share the findings and any recommendations based on them with the customer, including if non-chemical methods like sanitation, property site management or landscape architecture would reduce the need for pesticides. The inspection and communication efforts need to be added to the documentation already required by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Secondly, the bill establishes a Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry within MDA. Anyone interested in being notified when pesticides are going to be applied on contiguous or adjacent properties to theirs can sign up and note whether or not they or another member of their household should avoid pesticide exposure due to a sensitivity or a diagnosed condition or ailment, whether pets or other domestic animals reside on their property, and/or if a pollinator garden or other wildlife habitat can be found on that property. To minimize operational impact, this provision builds on MDA's existing Sensitive Persons registry.

If someone has registered to be on this list, which will be distributed at least once per year (or more should MDA decide) to licensed residential pest control businesses, any business must notify them in advance if they are to apply pesticide treatment to a contiguous property or one adjacent to theirs. If they have animals or pollinator gardens on their property, businesses must avoid as much as possible applying pesticides near any animals or gardens or in a way that easily allows the product to drift over into the adjacent property. This must also be recorded under standard MDA documentation requirements.

Additionally, should an individual request it, the business then must provide them with certain information like their business name and license number, contact information, common name and EPA registration number of the pesticide and its active ingredient the business plans to apply.

This information is important for people who may be exposed to pesticides to have access to, because pesticides and various other chemicals have been shown to have detrimental effects on the health of humans with certain health conditions and the health of animals, as well as on the preservation of pollinator gardens, where, particularly if they are not applied very carefully, those chemicals can kill sensitive non-nuisance plants and animals that are beneficial to our health and our environment, not just the pests they target.

This bill is *not* about hurting businesses: these regulations do not apply to agricultural land (or any land owned or managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources [DNR]), even if a residence is present on them. It does not ban pesticides or their use nor does it prohibit residents from hiring pesticide services.

This bill is *not* about burdening our government: I've made an effort to ensure that MDA has significant agency in how requirements are decided and structured like the ability to decide which pest control categories they apply to and to charge a registration fee to aid in implementation of the registry (with the exception of those who can provide documentation of conditions that could be exacerbated by pesticide exposure, for whom any fee must be waived), and I welcome continued partnerships with them and other departments - like DNR, whose amendment regarding exempting land they manage I already filed - to tweak this bill so it works best for the most people (and animals, and plants!).

This bill *is* about protecting the health and safety of Marylanders, their families, their pets, and their property through transparency and responsible business practices. It simply allows those who have concerns with pesticide exposure to avoid any unpleasant surprises and gives them more control over their own lives and their own property. Because of this, I ask for a favorable report on HB1237.

HB1237-503921-1.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheila Ruth

Position: FAV



HB1237/503921/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

02 MAR 26
17:36:01

BY: Delegate Ruth

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1237

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 24, after “**REPAIR;**” insert “AND”; and strike beginning with “**IF**” in line 25 down through “**(4)**” in line 28.

On page 6, in line 8, strike “**OR**” and substitute “, THE”; and in line 9, after “**APPLIED**” insert a comma.

HB1237:793526:1 - Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheila Ruth

Position: FAV



HB1237/793526/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

02 MAR 26
11:01:05

BY: Delegate Ruth

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1237

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 24, strike “**STRUCTURAL REPAIR**” and substitute “**PROPERTY SITE MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TO MINIMIZE PEST PRESSURE**”.

On page 4, in line 10, strike the first “**AND**”; in the same line, after “**NUMBER**” insert “**, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS**”; and in the same line, after the second “**AND**” insert “**THE STREET ADDRESS**”.

On page 5, in line 21, after the first “**LAND**” insert “**OR LAND OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**”; in line 26, after “**TELEPHONE**” insert “**OR E-MAIL**”; and in the same line, after “**OR**” insert “**BY TELEPHONE**”.

HB1237 Humane World for Animals FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Volodin

Position: FAV



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100
humaneworld.org

March 4, 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee
HB1237 - Pesticide Applications - Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment
FAVORABLE

Humane World for Animals, on behalf of our supporters across Maryland, respectfully urges a favorable report on HB1237. This bill represents a thoughtful and necessary step to safeguard the well-being of Maryland residents, their companion animals, and local wildlife by improving transparency, choice, and accountability regarding the application of pesticides in residential communities.

HB 1237 modernizes Maryland's pesticide oversight framework by requiring straightforward disclosure of the products being applied and establishing a Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry. The Registry reflects an innovative approach to shared environmental responsibility by acknowledging an often-overlooked reality: chemicals applied in one yard do not often stay there. Drift, runoff, and residue can move beyond property lines, exposing vulnerable community members, pets, and backyard pollinators without warning. By ensuring that neighbors who share property boundaries and abut managed greenspaces can receive timely notice of planned pesticide applications, including information about active ingredients and relevant safety precautions, the bill empowers Marylanders to take reasonable steps to prevent avoidable harm.

The risks of unintended pesticide exposure are well-documented. Animals may encounter pesticides through direct contact with treated surfaces or by ingesting contaminated prey, such as rodents who have consumed toxic bait. Even products marketed as "less toxic" can present dangers depending on the amount and mode of exposure. Companion animals are particularly vulnerable because of their proximity to treated lawns and gardens, along with their propensity to groom themselves, which increases ingestion risk.¹ It is also well documented that neighbor-to-neighbor, yard-to-home transfer of pesticide residues into rooms of a home can occur via pets, shoes, air and even chemicals migrating

¹ National Pesticide Information Center (2025, August 6). *Pesticides and animal health*.
<https://npic.orst.edu/health/animhealth.html>.



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through soil and entering buildings as vapor through foundation slabs and basement walls.^{2,3} Contamination risk is not limited to homes where pesticides are directly applied.⁴ Providing advance notice and clear product information is therefore not merely a courtesy; it is a meaningful public health safeguard.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects are equally at risk. Research documents widespread pesticide contamination in pollen, soil, and plant tissues - even in areas intended to attract pollinators - affirming that pesticides can travel through multiple environmental pathways, expose various species unintentionally, and cause persistent, long-lasting harm.⁵ Additional research has linked increased use of certain pesticides with declines in wild bee populations, an outcome with serious implications for ecosystem stability and agricultural viability.⁶ By creating a registry that identifies properties with pollinator gardens or habitats and requires pesticide applicators to exercise care with pesticide drift in proximate areas, HB 1237 helps align residential property management practices with broader pollinator protection goals.

The bill also reinforces the importance of informed consent in wildlife management by strengthening communication between licensed applicators and their customers. Requiring disclosure of pesticide use and encouraging consideration of less toxic or non-chemical alternatives helps align Maryland law with modern integrated pest management principles and reduces the harm to the urban ecosystems that we are all actively working to support.

² Nishioka, M. G., Burkholder, H. M., Brinkman, M. C., & Lewis, R. G. (1999). Distribution of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid in Floor Dust throughout Homes Following Homeowner and Commercial Lawn Applications: Quantitative Effects of Children, Pets, and Shoes. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 33(9), 1359-1365. <https://doi.org/10.1021/es980580o>.

³ Nishioka, M.G., Lewis, R.G., Brinkman, M.C., Burkholder, H.M., Hines, C.E., & Menkedick, J.R. (2001). Distribution of 2,4-D in Air and on Surfaces Inside Residences after Lawn Applications: Comparing Exposure Estimates from Various Media for Young Children. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 109(11), 1185–1191. <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.011091185>

⁴ Li, Z.M., Jeong, H., & Kannan, K. (2024). Widespread occurrence of glyphosate and aminomethylphosphonic acid in indoor dust from urban homes across the United States and its contribution to human exposure. *Environment International*, 192, 109036. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2024.109036>

⁵ Environmental Health Program, U.S. Geological Survey. (2022, May 23). *Pesticides detected in bees, flowers, soil, and air within pollinator-attractive row-crop border plantings*. <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/environmental-health-program/science/pesticides-detected-bees-flowers-soil-and-air-within>.

⁶ Guzman, L.M., et al. (2024). Impact of pesticide use on wild bee distributions across the United States. *Nature Sustainability*, 7, 1324–1334. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-024-01413-8>. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-024-01413-8>



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HB 1237 demands the communication, care, and accountability Marylanders deserve when pesticides are applied in residential communities. By prioritizing transparency and prevention, the bill helps protect people, pets, and wildlife from unnecessary harm. For these reasons, Humane World for Animals respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1237.

Stacey Volodin
Maryland State Director
Svolodin@humaneworld.org

HB1237FAV Sign on Testimony 3-2-26.pdf

Uploaded by: Dru Schmidt-Perkins

Position: FWA

Joint Testimony
Chesapeake Bay Foundation Maryland
Chapter Sierra Club
Maryland Legislative Coalition – Climate
Justice Wing

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

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The organizations below support this bill's goal for more Marylanders to learn about the use of pesticides being applied near their homes from certified applicators. This bill opens up the existing pesticide registry to more people.

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.

We are in support of this bill with the following friendly amendments.

1. Removing misleading language of least toxic pesticides. Both the labeling and the applicators' knowledge can cause false sense of safety
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

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. Also, HOAs or common grounds of residential complexes must be included.

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

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

SOPC members.pdf

Uploaded by: Dru Schmidt-Perkins

Position: FWA



The Smart on Pesticides Maryland Campaign is a coalition of 110 concerned Maryland citizens, organizations, groups, and businesses working for better protections and data to keep our families, our waterways, and our wildlife safe from toxic pesticides.

- A.I.R. Lawn care & Landscaping Services
- Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment
- American Academy of Pediatrics – Md. Chapter
- American Bird Conservancy
- American Public Health Association – Md. Chapter
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association
- Arundel Rivers Foundation
- Assateague Coastal Trust
- Audubon Mid-Atlantic
- Baltimore Backyard Beekeepers Network
- Baltimore Bird Club
- Bee Friendly Apiary
- Beyond Pesticides
- Big City Farms
- Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association
- CATA, Farmworkers Support Committee
- Carroll County Beekeepers Association
- Cecil Bird Club
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Food Safety
- Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
- Central Maryland Ecumenical Council/Leaders Group
- Centro de los Derechos del Migrante
- Charm City Meadworks
- Charles Smith Apiaries
- Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Children’s Environmental Health Network
- Clean Bread and Cheese Creek
- Clean Water Action
- Common Market Co-Op
- Conservation Community Consulting
- Cottingham Farm
- Crossroads Community Food Network
- Earth Coalition
- Earthjustice
- Eastern Shore Food Hub
- Environment Maryland
- Fair Farms
- F&D Apiaries
- Farmworker Justice
- Food and Water Watch
- Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center
- Frederick County Beekeepers Association
- Friends of Briers Mill Run
- Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
- Friends of Quincy Run
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenbelt Forest Preserve Butterfly Brigade
- Heathcote – School of Living Healthy Campaigns
- Hampden Community Council
- Hereford Bed & Biscuit
- HoneyFlower Foods
- Howard County Beekeepers Association
- Howard County Bird Club
- Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake
- Interfaith Power and Light
- Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
- Karma.Farm
- KW Landscaping
- Latino Farmers & Ranchers Association – Md Chapter
- League of Women Voters of Maryland
- Learning Disabilities Association – Md Chapter
- Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
- Maryland Autism Project
- Maryland Bass Nation
- Maryland Children’s Environmental Health Coalition
- Maryland Ethical Cannabis Association
- Maryland League of Conservation Voters
- Maryland Nurses Association
- Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Maryland Pesticide Education Network
- Maryland Public Interest Research Group
- Maryland United for Peace and Justice
- Maryland Votes for Animals
- McDaniel Honey Farm
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Moms Clean Air Force
- MOM’s Organic Market
- Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- National Aquarium
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Nature Forward
- Organic Consumers Association
- Pearlstone Conference Center
- Perfect Earth Project
- Pesticide Action Network – North America
- Potomac Riverkeeper
- Rachel Carson Council
- Really Raw Honey Company
- Red Top Farm
- Rodale Institute
- Rosedale Farm
- Ruscombe Community Health Center
- SafeGrow Montgomery
- Safe Minds
- Safe Skies Maryland
- Severn River Association
- Sierra Club – Maryland Chapter
- Spa Creek Conservancy
- The Flower Factory
- Towson Estates Association
- Trout Unlimited
- Washington County Beekeepers Association
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake
- Westport Farmers Market
- Westport Neighborhood Association
- Wicomico Environmental Trust

Testimony HB 1237 FWA 3-4-26 MPEN-SOPC.pdf

Uploaded by: Dru Schmidt-Perkins

Position: FWA



**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

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HB1237_DNR_SWA_ENT_3-4-26.pdf

Uploaded by: Lydia McPherson

Position: FWA



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 4, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1237 - FIRST READER

SHORT TITLE: PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS – SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRY ESTABLISHMENT

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department of Natural Resources supports HB 1237 with an amendment. It encourages responsible use of pesticides and creates a mechanism whereby individuals residing in residential settings can remain informed when pesticides will be applied nearby on adjacent properties. This bill encourages the use of least-toxic alternatives and the avoidance of applying pesticides to registered properties with pollinator gardens or wildlife habitats. Both of these provisions will help to minimize the effects of pesticides on non-target organisms of concern.

The Department respectfully requests one amendment to HB 1237 as noted below. The amendment would provide an exemption for pesticide applications on land owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The bill currently only exempts agricultural land. The Department owns or manages a significant amount of property, including state forests, state parks, and wildlife management areas. Most of this land is undeveloped, but technically has many adjacent neighbors. Most of these neighbors would not be near any pesticide treatments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Natural Resources owns or manages over 500,000 acres of land.

BILL EXPLANATION

HB 1237 proposes new regulations for pesticide businesses and enhanced notification for residents. Licensed pesticide applicators with residential subscription contracts would be required to inspect properties before every pesticide application, communicate inspection findings and recommendations (including non-chemical options like repairs) to the customer, recommend the least toxic effective alternative if chemical control is necessary, and maintain detailed records of these inspections and communications.

The bill would also create the Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry. The Maryland Department of Agriculture would establish the registry for individuals to sign up to receive notifications about nearby pesticide applications.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)

BY:

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1237

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 5, in line 21, after the first "LAND" insert "OR LAND OWNED OR
MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES".

HB1237 Alan Jones NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Alan Jones

Position: UNF

Manor View Farm
15601 Manor Road,
Monkton MD 21111

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,

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 available to anyone. 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.

The bill also raises tremendous privacy concerns for customers of landscape companies. 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,
Alan Jones
Manor View Farm

HB1237 Brad Leahy UNF

Uploaded by: Brad Leahy

Position: UNF

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 Brad Leahy, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland. I wanted to go on the record to strongly oppose Maryland House Bill 1237 for the following reasons:

After taking the time to read the existing pesticide regulations, I see there are ample regulations to inform Marylanders about pesticide applications for those that truly need it. This bill will end up causing a further divide amongst Marylanders, something we all should be opposed to. I am extremely concerned about my privacy and how this information would be used now and in the future.

The true cost of this bill will be passed on to the consumer. Marylanders are already suffering from rising costs, this bill will only make it worse, and the effects will be felt the most in the lowest income families.

Maryland is already ranked as one of the worst states to do business in. This bill would only burden existing business and deter future investment into what was once a thriving economy. We can't afford to lose any more jobs.

This bill would set a precedent for future government overreach. In the future would I have to inform my neighbor that I am going to mow my lawn, wash my car, or power wash my house? Where would this end?

I see no benefit for Marylanders. Pesticide applications will still be made. This bill will only hurt consumers, business owners, and their employees. This bill will do way more harm than good.

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

Sincerely,
Brad Leahy
Lifelong Resident
Leahy.brad@gmail.com

HB1237 Brandon Sheppard NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Brandon Sheppard

Position: UNF

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 Brandon 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,
Brandon Sheppard
WEED MAN

HB1237 Bruce Sheppard NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Bruce Sheppard

Position: UNF

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

2026-MSPCA-HB 1237-Oppo Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Barton

Position: UNF



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

HB1237-ET_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlotte Fleckenstein

Position: UNF



House Bill 1237

Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 4, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson & Charlotte Fleckenstein

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1237. This bill establishes the Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry within the Department of Agriculture for individuals to receive advance notification of pesticide applications on neighboring properties.

This bill imposes an unworkable administrative framework that would disrupt local government operations. As drafted, county operations would be subject to expanded notification obligations, increased record-keeping and reporting, and heightened documentation standards when applying pesticide treatments. These requirements go well beyond current regulatory safeguards and create overlapping compliance obligations without clear evidence of improved health and safety outcomes.

Counties already adhere to comprehensive and rigorous safety regulations that strictly regulate the purchase, handling, application, and recordkeeping of pesticide products used on public lands. These include advance planning requirements, applicator licensing and certification standards, product label compliance, and public notification through prominently posted signage at treatment sites.

This bill would require local governments to revise standard operating procedures, update compliance protocols, and adjust service schedules. Because pesticide application is a recurring and ongoing function in county park systems, roadside maintenance, pest control programs, and public facilities management, these impacts will not be limited to one-time implementation costs but represent compounding, ongoing operational expenditures.

Many local public facilities span hundreds of acres and share boundaries with dozens, or even hundreds, of private properties. HB 1237 would require county applicators to make individual contact with every registered individual via telephone, in-person meetings, or hand-delivered notices on the day before or day of application. In practice, this mandate would divert personnel away from core service delivery and delay necessary maintenance activities.

HB 1237 introduces a duplicative and administratively burdensome notification and documentation framework that would significantly hinder the ability of local governments to maintain public lands, control invasive species, protect public health from pests, and preserve critical infrastructure in a timely and efficient manner. For these reasons, MACo respectfully urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1237.

HB1237 Johnathon Lucci NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Johnathon Lucci

Position: UNF

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 Jonathan Lucci, 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,
Jonathan Lucci
WEED MAN

HB1237 UNF Colbert MNCPPC

Uploaded by: Jordan Colbert

Position: UNF



POSITION STATEMENTS

Bill: HB1237 Pesticide Applications - Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

Position: Oppose

Date: March 4, 2026

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Senior Government Affairs Analyst

Dear Chair Marc Korman,

This bill establishes certain requirements for a pesticide business licensee that has a subscription contract for pest control with a residential customer; requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry for the purpose of registering certain individuals who are interested in receiving notice of certain pesticide applications; requiring the Department to prepare a certain list from the Registry and distribute the list to certain licensees; requiring certain licensees and pesticide applicators to take certain actions before and during a pesticide application to a property contiguous or adjacent to the property of a registered individual.

Staff Comments

The Montgomery Parks Department opposes HB1237 due to the significant operational and administrative burdens it would impose, the ambiguity in several of its provisions, and the potential to disrupt critical natural resource management activities specifically related to non-native, invasive plants.

The bill would require additional staff resources to adequately review the registry and notify registered individuals prior to pesticide applications. This would directly impact the Natural Resources Sections (NRS) and other programs responsible for essential pesticide applications in

natural areas, including treatment of non-native and invasive species. The applications are necessary to maintain ecological health and compliance with land management obligations.

Although the fiscal impact may initially appear minimal, it has potential to grow substantially. Participation levels in the registry are impossible to estimate, and the bill requires notification “upon request” which likewise creates an unpredictable and expanding workload. Without a clear understanding of the number of registrants, the Department cannot accurately project staffing needs or operational impacts.

The bill’s use of the terms “adjacent” and “contiguous” raises additional concerns. For large park properties, this language could be interpreted broadly. In some cases, a registered individual located a substantial distance away- potentially hundreds of acres from the treatment site- could still be considered contiguous, thereby triggering notification requirements. Without a defined and reasonable distance limitation, the bill creates operational uncertainty and excessive notification obligations.

Additionally, the language requiring applicators to exercise “particular care” to avoid drift or other impacts lacks specificity and leaves room for subjective interpretation. While there is no explicit suggestion that registered participants could disrupt applications, the ambiguity in this provision invites potential disputes and could complicate routine, legally compliant pesticide applications.

For these reasons, the Parks department believes HB1237 would impose significant administrative burdens, create operational uncertainty, and hinder timely and necessary pesticide applications essential to natural resource management. Accordingly, we respectfully oppose the bill.

In 2025, Montgomery Parks staff made 437 pesticide applications on Parkland to approximately 90 parks. With 416 parks across over 37,000 acres, the number of pesticide applications and the number of parks treated each year vary based on the pests we find and the methodology we use to treat them. Montgomery Parks does not routinely apply pesticides. As an agency, we implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to ensure pesticides are used as a last resort to treat pests. Most of the park system’s 37,000+ acres are managed without the use of pesticides. While IPM is practiced countywide, the department manages 54 parks and all 275 playgrounds using alternative, environmentally friendly methods. Environmentally friendly methods include hot foam applications, string trimming, mechanical weed removal, and products approved for use by Montgomery County Code 33B. These approved products must be listed by the National Organics Standards Board or designated as a “minimum risk” pesticide under

FIFRA 25(b). This careful and balanced approach helps us ensure our parkland remains beautiful, resilient, safe, and open for public enjoyment.

When pesticides are deemed necessary, the public is notified of applications through our website **Pest Management Program - Montgomery Parks**. The table on our website includes a schedule of upcoming pesticide applications. This table is updated routinely to provide at least a 48-hour notice of applications, except in cases of specific emergency applications like stinging insects harmful to human health. When emergency applications are made, the amenity is closed to the public during the application. Montgomery Parks staff make every effort to notify the community through this webpage when a pesticide application is scheduled in a public area. Application dates may change or be canceled due to weather; also, occasional emergency applications (such as managing stinging insects harmful to human health) may be needed.

The introduction of a registry of individuals that would need to be notified of every application the day before or morning of a pesticide application could be a significant staff challenge that is difficult to estimate in advance. We don't foresee that the maintenance staff or horticulture staff performing the pesticide applications would be the same staff calling to inform the homeowner or stopping by the residence to provide them with the notice and information required. These staff would be hands on in the field and not able to be pulled away from their work to meet with homeowners. Staff employed for these tasks would need to be a higher level manager that is able to answer technical questions about the pest, and pesticide and, provide customer service to respond appropriately to potentially difficult questions from the homeowner. Currently if patrons have a question about an application, they are able to reach out to our customer service line to get more information about an upcoming application that is scheduled. Paper mailings or hand delivered notices are not a practical way to communicate for our agency when we have over 400 parks and over 37,000 acres of land. This registry could be seen as an outdated approach to making contact with Montgomery County residents and redundant for Montgomery Parks, especially when we are already very transparent with the public about our pesticide applications through our website, which provides advance notification of pesticide use and signage in the parks so patrons are informed about an application.

Another potential conflict with the notification process in the bill is that it requires notification to adjacent or contiguous property owners the day before or day of an application. Park staff post intended applications on our website at least 48 hours in advance of the date of application. We also list application dates as a range of dates as there is potential for applications to be cancelled because of unfavorable weather conditions. Other information we provide on the web for each application include the park location, date range, time pesticide will be applied, specific location in the park to be treated, and application details including the pesticide product that will be used

and the pest to be treated. Montgomery Parks also goes above and beyond State law and posts signs after every pesticide application, and they remain onsite for 48 hours. The signs detail that a pesticide application was made, the date it was made, the reason for treatment, the location, and the product used. State law requires that only turf and ornamental pesticide applications be posted on-site for 48 hours after application. Also, Montgomery Parks pre-posts applications by signing with information on site as required by County law for applications to turf, near waterbodies, and athletic fields.

The bill's use of the terms "pollinator garden" and "other wildlife habitat" lacks specificity and leaves room for subjective interpretation. What is the standard that the homeowner must meet to ensure their property provides sufficient ecosystem services to qualify as a pollinator garden or wildlife habitat? Who is the responsible party for reviewing the homeowner application and inspecting the property to ensure the standards are met. The bill requires that inclusion in the residential pollinator protection registry requires an annual renewal; will the homeowner's property be inspected on an annual basis to ensure ongoing compliance with the standards?

HB1237 Layne Sheppard NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Layne Sheppard

Position: UNF

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 Layne 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,
Layne Sheppard
WEED MAN

2026_MaGIC_HB1237_Registry_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsay Thompson

Position: UNF



Date: March 4, 2026

HB 1237 - Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

MaGIC Position: **Opposed** Committee: Environment and Transportation

On behalf of the Maryland Green Industries Council (MGIC), representing landscape contractors, arborists, lawn care professionals, and related green industry businesses across the State, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1237.

House Bill 1237 would establish new requirements for pesticide business licensees serving residential customers. Specifically, the bill would create a Neighbor Notification Registry requiring advance notification of certain pesticide applications. While MaGIC shares the goal of protecting pollinators and promoting transparency, the bill as drafted creates significant operational, economic, and legal challenges for Maryland's professional landscape and arboricultural businesses.

Maryland's landscapers and arborists are largely small, locally owned businesses that rely on timely, weather-dependent service delivery. The bill's notification and registry requirements would impose administrative burdens that are disproportionate to the scale of these operations. Real-time scheduling adjustments due to weather, pest outbreaks, or client emergencies are routine in our industry. Mandatory, 24-hour, notification requirements tied to each application could delay essential treatments, resulting in increased pest pressure, declining plant health, and higher long-term pesticide use rather than less.

Arborists and landscape professionals frequently respond to emergent issues such as invasive insects, tree disease outbreaks, or safety hazards. The inability to promptly treat these issues without navigating registry compliance could lead to greater environmental harm, tree loss, and public safety risks.

The bill's neighbor notification registry introduces new liability exposures for contractors. Landscape professionals could face enforcement risk or private disputes if registry data are incomplete, inaccurate, or not updated in real time. Businesses should not be held responsible for errors or omissions in a state-maintained registry beyond their control. Mandatory disclosure of treatment schedules may conflict with contractual obligations and raise legitimate security concerns.

The green industry supports thousands of skilled jobs across Maryland, including certified arborists, licensed applicators, horticultural technicians, and seasonal employees. Increased compliance costs, administrative overhead, and scheduling inefficiencies will disproportionately affect small and mid-sized firms, leading to higher consumer costs.

Maryland's landscapers and arborists are environmental stewards who maintain the health, safety, and beauty of our residential and commercial landscapes while adhering to strict professional standards. House Bill 1237, as drafted, imposes burdensome and duplicative requirements that will hinder timely pest management, increase costs, and potentially worsen environmental outcomes.

For these reasons, the Maryland Green Industries Council respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1237 an unfavorable report.

118 Dundee Ave ■ Chester, MD 21619 ■ Phone: 443-262-8491 ■ E-mail: lindsay.mdag@gmail.com

RJR-(MTC.MASFMA) House Bill 1237 Pesticide Applica

Uploaded by: Logan Freeman

Position: UNF



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

HB1237 Margret Sheppard NALP UNF

Uploaded by: Margret Sheppard

Position: UNF

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 Maggie Sheppard, I am a constituent and 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,
Maggie Sheppard
WEED MAN

HB 1237 Testimony 3.4.26.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Schlossberg

Position: UNF



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

March 4th, 2026

Ref: HB 1237 – OPPOSE

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the E&T Committee.

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI), I write to respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 1237. While we appreciate the intent of improving transparency within pesticide and pest control service contracts, we are concerned that the bill, as drafted, would impose significant administrative burdens on licensed applicators and raise substantial privacy concerns for both companies and their customers.

HB 1237 establishes new requirements for pesticide business licensees that maintain subscription pest control contracts with residential customers. These requirements would create extensive new recordkeeping, disclosure, and reporting obligations that go well beyond existing state and federal pesticide regulatory frameworks, which already provide robust protections for consumers and the environment.

Maryland's green industry is composed largely of small and mid-sized locally owned businesses that provide essential lawn care, pest management, and landscape services to homeowners and commercial properties. These businesses already comply with comprehensive licensing, recordkeeping, and reporting rules under the Maryland Department of Agriculture's pesticide regulatory program. Layering additional contract-specific mandates onto these existing obligations would create duplicative paperwork requirements, new compliance systems, and increased legal review costs—diverting resources away from service delivery, workforce investment, and environmental stewardship.

In particular, the bill's apparent focus on subscription-based residential service contracts would require businesses to redesign customer agreements, modify billing and scheduling software, and maintain new documentation systems solely for Maryland customers.

MAGI is also deeply concerned about the privacy implications of the bill. Many pest control and lawn care contracts contain sensitive information about a customer's home, property conditions, pest issues, and treatment schedules. Requiring expanded disclosures, retention, or potential reporting of this information raises legitimate concerns about data security and the protection of homeowner privacy. Any statutory requirement that compels the collection, storage, or transmission of customer-specific service data increases the risk of inadvertent disclosure or misuse, particularly for small businesses that may not have extensive IT infrastructure.

Furthermore, the bill may create uncertainty about what specific customer information must be retained or disclosed, exposing businesses to enforcement risk for unintentional technical violations rather than substantive environmental or safety concerns. This could have a chilling effect on service offerings, reduce flexibility in customizing pest management plans, and ultimately limit options for Maryland homeowners seeking professional pest control and



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

landscape services.

MAGI strongly supports science-based pesticide regulation, consumer transparency, and environmental stewardship. However, these goals must be balanced with practical, workable compliance frameworks that do not impose disproportionate administrative and legal burdens on licensed professionals who are already operating under strict regulatory oversight. For these reasons, the Maryland Association of Green Industries respectfully urges an **unfavorable report** on House Bill 1237. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Committee on alternative approaches that enhance consumer awareness while protecting business confidentiality, reducing administrative complexity, and safeguarding the privacy of Maryland residents.

Mark I. Schlossberg
President
C- (410) 299-7979
E- mark@prolawnplus.com