



House Bill 167
Government, Labor and Elections
February 12, 2026
Support

Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. The American Lung Association in Maryland supports House Bill 167 sponsored by Delegate Foley which would prohibit the state from purchasing gasoline-powered leaf blowers to attain Maryland's climate standards while reducing pollution and improving air quality and public health in the state.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association's [2025 State of the Air](#)¹ report revealed that 46% of Americans, more than 156 million people live in counties that had unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. In Maryland there were mixed results with three counties receiving a failing grade for high ozone pollution and another ten counties receiving a 'C' or lower for unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. Ozone and particle pollution can harm the health of all Maryland residents and of particular risk are children, older adults, pregnant people, and those living with chronic diseases – approximately 81,000 children and 520,000 adults are living with asthma in Maryland and another 270,000 are managing other lung illnesses. Both ozone and particle pollution can cause premature death and other serious health effects such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and developmental and reproductive harm.

House Bill 167 proposes to help transition state purchases toward cleaner technology by prohibiting the state from purchasing gasoline-powered leaf blowers. While many sources have been cleaned up over time, lawnmowers, leaf blowers and other small equipment have not. However, the state should be encouraging the transition to widely available zero-emission technologies broadly, including in the -road sector. The Lung Association supports this bill and believes the state can play an important role in building its fleet of zero-emission equipment.

While this may seem to be a minor source of emissions, this sector is a growing source of ozone-forming emissions, especially when considering significant progress has been made in other polluting sources. For example, when the California Air Resources Board adopted their zero-emissions standards for small off-road engines – including landscaping equipment – in 2021, [they noted](#) that running a gas leaf blower for one hour produces the equivalent smog forming emissions as a new sedan driving 1,100 miles.² This sector is a major contributor to air quality challenges: these small engines are well past due for a clean-up and Maryland should lead by example to protect health.

The American Lung Association believes that all people are entitled to breathe healthy air and to be free of the adverse health effects of air pollution. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 167 and urge a favorable report. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at aleks.casper@lung.org or 202-719-2810.

Sincerely,



Aleks Casper
Director of Advocacy

¹ American Lung Association. State of the Air Report, 2025. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota>

² California Air Resources Board. SORE-Small Engine Fact Sheet, 2021. Available at [SORE - Small Engine Fact Sheet | California Air Resources Board](#)