

# REGULATION OF TOXIC PESTICIDES NEEDS ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTISE

**Pass (HB387/SB268) to move the authority to regulate pesticides to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment**

Pesticides are toxic to humans and the environment, but in Maryland, **millions of pounds of pesticides are used annually<sup>1</sup> without needed environmental and public health oversight.** The regulation of more than 14,000 pesticide products is solely the charge of the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture (MDA), an agency that lacks scientific expertise on toxics, the environment, and health.

Passing the Maryland Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Dept. of the Environment Bill will shift the authority to regulate pesticides from MDA to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment—the agency with scientific expertise charged with the oversight of toxic substances—with advice and counsel from MDA and the Maryland Dept. of Health.

## MARYLAND DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT NEEDS TO LEAD THE CHARGE ON PESTICIDE REGULATION BECAUSE:



### MARYLAND DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO HANDLE REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

The agency was created to protect and preserve the state's air, water, and land resources and safeguard the environmental health of Maryland's citizens. The department already oversees and regulates hazardous chemicals, including lead in homes and radiation in hospitals, giving them the needed expertise to assess the level of safety and risks of pesticides.



### PESTICIDE REGULATION OVERBURDENS MDA.

The Maryland Dept. of Agriculture needs to be focused on their prime directive: the protection and promotion of farmers during these tough times. They are currently the sole decisionmaker on pesticides, but their agency lacks the advantage of public and environmental health experts needed to assess the risks of 14,000 pesticides being registered for sales and use in Maryland.



### PESTICIDES HAVE DANGEROUS IMPACTS.

Studies have linked pesticides to health risks, including cancer, reproductive disorders, as well as nervous and hormonal system disruption.<sup>2</sup> Pesticide exposure is also linked to adverse birth and developmental outcomes, including preterm birth, low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, pediatric cancers, neurobehavioral and cognitive deficits, and asthma.<sup>3</sup> Pesticides are harming our food supply as a key cause of pollinator loss.<sup>4</sup> They damage ecosystems, with more than three-quarters of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters impaired by chemical contaminants.<sup>5</sup>



### PESTICIDES ARE NOT ONLY FOUND IN AGRICULTURE.

They are used throughout communities in schools, daycare centers, hospitals, nursing homes, office buildings, parks, golf courses, athletic fields, other public locations, and contained in thousands of consumer products.<sup>6</sup> Pesticides are in our food, air, and run off into the Bay impacting the fish we eat and the greater ecosystem.<sup>7</sup> Pesticides go beyond the scope of the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture. Other states already understand the need for pesticide registration oversight by experts in public health and the environment including New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, South Carolina, Wyoming, and California.

## WHAT WILL THE BILL DO?

We need to protect the interests of everyone in our state. With appropriate oversight led by the Maryland Dept. of the Environment, pesticide regulations will include all voices and expertise at the table, rather than overwhelming one agency that lacks the needed critical expertise to accomplish the task.

By making the Dept. of the Environment the lead agency on pesticides oversight, with input from the Depts. of Health and Agriculture, Maryland can finally have appropriate oversight of these toxic chemicals. Our communities and children will be healthier, and our pollinators, Bay ecosystem, and the environment will be better protected.

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**Maryland Dept. of the Environment** brings staff with scientific expertise to assess and regulate toxic chemicals and their impacts on the health of people, wildlife, and waterways.

### WITH ADVICE AND COUNSEL FROM:

Maryland Dept. of Health for expertise on public health and safety; and Maryland Dept. of Agriculture for expertise on the effectiveness of pesticides to kill the target pest or weed.



**TAKE ACTION TODAY TO BRING  
EXPERTISE INTO DECISION-MAKING**

**Ask your state elected officials and Governor Hogan to vote YES on (HB387/SB268) this session to transfer pesticide oversight to Maryland Dept. of the Environment—the agency charged with the oversight of toxics—with advice and counsel from the Maryland Depts. of Health and Agriculture.**

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[LINK TO WEBSITE]

**#PESTICIDEOVERSIGHTINMD**

**VOTE  
YES ON  
HB387/SB268**

**SMART on  
PESTICIDES  
maryland**

*For Safe Water  
& Healthy Kids*

<sup>1</sup><https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/MarylandPesticideSurveyPub.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/human-health-issues-related-pesticides#What>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/01/opinion/pesticide-epa.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/chemical\\_contaminants](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/chemical_contaminants)

<sup>6</sup><https://nchh.org/information-and-evidence/learn-about-healthy-housing/health-hazards-prevention-and-solutions/pesticides/>

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/chemical\\_contaminants](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/chemical_contaminants)