

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2013

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Maryland Delegate Lafferty and Senator Manno Introduce Pesticide Reporting Bill
*Poll Shows Large Majority of Marylanders Support Legislation
Requiring Pesticide Applicators to Report Usage*

(Annapolis, MD) – Maryland Delegate Stephen Lafferty and Senator Roger Manno have introduced the Pesticide Reporting and Information Act (HB 775/ SB 675), which would create a simple and cost-neutral, centralized online pesticide reporting database accessible to public health and environmental experts. The bill is one of the environmental community's top priorities for the 2013 General Assembly session.

The bill would require pesticide applicators, as well as sellers of restricted-use pesticides, to report information they are already required to maintain. Homeowners would not be affected. System setup and maintenance costs would be covered by a modest increase in existing annual product registration fees borne by chemical manufacturers.

A hearing for HB 775 is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 1 p.m. in the Environmental Matters Committee.

Delegate Lafferty said, "Right now we've got serious data gaps about how, when and where pesticides are being used. Our public health and environmental experts lack and do not have access to the basic information they need to fully protect our health and our waterways. It's time to change that."

Senator Manno said, "Our children's health is a top priority. New research shows that pesticides even in small doses can pose a serious risk. I'm proud to sponsor this legislation that is supported by so many citizens across the state."

According to recent [statewide polling](#), eight in 10 voters are concerned about the risk of pesticides to their families' health, and a large majority (82 percent) favors making commercial pesticide use reporting mandatory.

Nearly 5,000 Marylanders have signed petitions asking Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly to pass the Pesticide Reporting and Information Act, a display of the public's support for better reporting.

Exposures to pesticides are linked to many chronic illnesses, including asthma, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, cancer, and Parkinson's disease, as well as to birth defects and fertility problems.

Pesticides are particularly dangerous for children. A growing body of scientific evidence links pesticides to adverse health impacts on children's neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine systems – even at low exposure levels. In November 2012 the American Academy of Pediatrics issued its first policy statement aimed at minimizing pesticide exposure in children and identifying the need for public health tracking of pesticides.

A recent federal report, [Toxic Contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed](#), confirms the need for more pesticide information in Maryland. The report details which pesticides are widespread in the Bay watershed and others for which there is insufficient data.

The report states: *“Data and research gaps exist for many pesticides including some current-use and some legacy pesticides, and consequently the extent and severity remains uncertain... the potential sublethal effects of low concentrations of many pesticides (and degradates) and their mixtures (including adjuvants, etc.) in the environment is poorly understood.”*

The report was part of President Obama's 2010 Chesapeake Bay Executive Order strategy and is to be used to set goals for reducing toxic substances.

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The Smart on Pesticides Maryland – For Safe Waters & Healthy Kids campaign is a coalition of concerned Maryland citizens working to pass legislation creating a simple and cost-neutral, centralized online pesticide reporting database in 2013.

Smart on Pesticides is part of the Pesticides and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Project, which was established in 2007 by the Maryland Pesticide Network and the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. It is the first working group in Maryland dedicated to reducing the occurrence and risks of pesticides in the Bay watershed, in order to protect water quality, aquatic life, wildlife and public health. Project participants include scientists, public health experts, waterkeepers, watermen, representatives of the agricultural and pest management industries, and environmental organizations.