



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 21, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
State of Maryland  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 313 (Chapter 585), Acts of 2000 and Health-General Article, §13-1506(8) -  
2019 Legislative Report of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory  
Council

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Health-General Article, §13-1506(8), Annotated Code of Maryland, the Children's  
Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council submits the 2019 annual legislative report on  
their activities.

Thank you for your continued interest in children's environmental health issues in Maryland. If you  
should have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-767-6234.

Sincerely,

Clifford S. Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary, MDH  
Ben Grumbles, JD, LLM, Secretary, MDE  
Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, MDH  
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP., Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services, MDH  
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, MDH  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #1460

*Maryland Department of Health  
Maryland Department of the Environment*

*2019 Annual Report  
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council  
Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)*

**December 2019**

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd Rutherford**  
Lieutenant Governor

(This page intentionally left blank.)

## **Background**

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) was established in 2000 pursuant to Chapter 585 of the Acts of 2000. CEHPAC advises the Governor and the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children.

Specifically, Health General §13–1506 requires CEHPAC to:

- (1) Review and comment on existing rules, regulations, and standards to ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards adequately protect the health of children from environmental hazards by taking into account the special vulnerability of children because of their developing physiology, and because their exposures, behaviors, and diets can differ greatly from those of adults;
- (2) (i) Review proposed regulations submitted to CEHPAC, and (ii) recommend to the promulgating unit measures that would avoid or minimize any negative impact that the proposed regulation may have on the health of children;
- (3) Comment on any proposed regulations that may be submitted by any other principal department of the Executive Branch during the public comment period if CEHPAC determines that the proposed regulation will have an adverse impact on children's health;
- (4) Gather and disseminate information to the public, including the research and medical communities, community-based organizations, schools, and State agencies, on how to reduce, treat, and eliminate children's exposures to environmental hazards to further the public's understanding of the environmental hazards that may potentially affect children;
- (5) Recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards, especially in areas reasonably accessible to children;
- (6) Create and promote education programs, in partnership with health and environmental professionals, for parents, guardians, and caregivers of children that include information on: (i) the potential health effects of environmental hazards; (ii) practical suggestions on how to reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards; and (iii) any other relevant information to assist parents, guardians, and caregivers in protecting children from environmental hazards;
- (7) Provide input to the General Assembly on legislation that may impact environmental hazards that affect the health of children; and
- (8) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually on the activities of CEHPAC.

## **Mission**

CEHPAC seeks to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health and to recommend solutions to those hazards through interdisciplinary problem solving and coalition building. CEHPAC's goals were developed in 2001 and are reaffirmed annually. They are to:

- Ensure that the rules, regulations, and standards of the State protect children from environmental hazards;
- Educate involved parties regarding the environmental hazards that impact children's health and the means to avoid those hazards; and
- Enable children in Maryland to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

## **Membership**

CEHPAC is composed of nineteen members, including those from the General Assembly, State agencies, private sector representatives, and parents with interest and expertise in the area of children’s health and the environment (see Appendix A for current CEHPAC membership).

## **CEHPAC Activities**

CEHPAC convened in public session seven times in 2019, including an annual joint meeting with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. These meetings enabled CEHPAC to discuss proposed legislation, review proposed regulations, provide educational presentations for members, and discuss various children’s environmental health issues. During the 2019 legislative session, CEHPAC held one meeting in January 2019 in Annapolis to allow the appointed General Assembly representatives to attend and share information on current legislation. CEHPAC discussed the following legislation and regulations during the 2019 legislative session:

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>
HB 277 / SB 249	Regional Initiative to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Transportation Sector – Authorization (Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act of 2019)
HB 70	Public Safety – Rental Unit – Carbon Monoxide Alarms
HB 27	Clean Indoor Air Act – Use of Electronic Cigarette Devices – Prohibition
HB 275 / SB 270	Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition
HB 124 / SB 299	Tanning Devices – Use By Minors

CEHPAC voted to support legislation that would: prohibit the use of the pesticide Chlorpyrifos, and prohibit the use of tanning devices by minors. CEHPAC also supported the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative due to the importance of climate change to children’s environmental health. The Council opposed legislation that would have reduced the requirements for carbon monoxide detectors in rental dwelling units.

In May 2019, CEHPAC met with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities and discussed issues of mutual interest to both advisory bodies. The issues of health disparities and environmental justice figured prominently in these discussions, but the groups did not identify any specific priority areas.

In June 2019, a letter regarding proposed changes to the Green Building Program and Guidelines for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools was sent to the Maryland Green Building Council. Additionally, a letter was sent to the Federal Communications Commission regarding its guidelines related to the impact of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Field exposure on human health.

Throughout 2019, CEHPAC continued to discuss and provide input for the Health in All Policies Workgroup. The Workgroup asked CEHPAC to review and provide input to the section on “Data

Sharing” to assist in the development of a *“process to provide guidance to state and county agencies to facilitate data sharing between and within agencies ... to ensure health and non-health data are being shared to support health in all policies.”* CEHPAC was identified as a focus group to provide this feedback.

CEHPAC heard regular updates regarding the State’s progress on the 2016 lead testing initiative, which defined the entire State of Maryland as “at risk” for lead exposure. This initiative requires all children born on or after January 1, 2015 to be tested at 12 and 24 months. CEHPAC follows the State’s progress in implementing these requirements and hears regular updates on challenges and opportunities related to reducing lead exposure in children in the State.

### **Future Priorities**

CEHPAC continues to work on the topics described above, as well as a number of new priorities for the coming year. These include some continuations of previous activities (WiFi radiation and other environmental hazards in schools), some that are emerging concerns (asthma and climate change, health in all policies), and some that reflect consistent concerns of CEHPAC’s members. CEHPAC is also making plans to revisit some of the issues and concerns identified in the 2008 CEHPAC report, “Maryland’s Children and the Environment” (available at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Shared%20Documents/CEHPAC/Report-2008-FINAL.pdf>), with the intention of updating the document for publication in 2020.

### **Conclusion**

The issue of children’s environmental health continues to be a major concern, and CEHPAC’s role is to provide education and advice regarding these issues to policy makers and the public in Maryland. CEHPAC will continue to review proposed regulations and legislation to protect Maryland’s children from environmental health hazards. CEHPAC will also maintain its current efforts to educate its members and other interested parties on the growing body of knowledge related to children’s environmental health.

## Appendix A. CEHPAC Membership 2019

<b>Maryland Senate</b> The Honorable Guy Guzzone	<b>Licensed Healthcare Professional</b> 1) Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD 2) Laura Allen, RN
<b>Maryland House of Delegates</b> Vacant	<b>Expert in studying the impact of environmental allergies and childhood asthma from Johns Hopkins University</b> Gregory Diette, MD
<b>Department of Health</b> Clifford Mitchell, MD, MS, MPH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (Chair)	<b>Parent or Guardian</b> Veronika Carella
<b>Department of the Environment</b> Duane Johnson (Vice Chair)	<b>Environmental Epidemiologist</b> Nsedu Witherspoon
<b>Department of Agriculture</b> Robert Hofstetter	<b>Economist</b> Vacant
<b>Department of Education</b> Alicia Mezu	<b>Environmental Toxicologist</b> Dr. Megan Latshaw
<b>Department of Human Resources</b> Shawnett Mills	<b>Maryland Association of Counties</b> Scott LeRoy
<b>Department of Housing and Community Development</b> Caroline Varney-Alvarado	<b>Private Industry</b> Julian Levy
<b>Governor's Office for Children</b> Vacant	<b>Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities</b> Camille Burke