



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 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) -  
2020 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 this 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, MS, MD, MPH  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dennis R. Schrader, Act. Secretary, MDH  
Ben Grumbles, JD, LLM, Secretary, MDE  
Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, MDH  
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, Act. 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*

*2020 Annual Report  
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council  
Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)*

**December 2020**

**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 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 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 six times in 2020 as of this report, including an annual joint meeting with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities on December 3rd, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several meetings were rescheduled. Regular communication enabled CEHPAC to discuss proposed legislation, review proposed regulations, provide educational presentations for members, and discuss various children's environmental health issues. During the 2020 legislative session, CEHPAC held one meeting in January 2020 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 2020 legislative session:

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>
HB 0007	Environment - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Inspections for Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems
HB 0229 / SB 0300	Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition
HB 0457 / SB 0371	Environment - Drinking Water Outlets in School Buildings - Testing for Elevated Level of Lead
HB 0517	Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
HB 1425 / SB 0926	Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act
HB 1475 / SB 0992	School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)
HB 1542	Public Health - Lead Poisoning Testing Program and Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund
HJ 0001	Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Implementation of a Climate Mobilization Effort
SB 0065	Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools
SB 0184	University of Maryland, Baltimore - Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise

CEHPAC supported HB 229/SB 300, which would prohibit the use of the pesticide Chlorpyrifos.

During this reporting period, CEHPAC undertook the following actions:

- November 2019, sent a letter to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) with a request to discuss the recommendations contained in the Maryland Health in All Policies report submitted by the University of Maryland School of Public Health in response to SB 340 (2017), available at <https://sph.umd.edu/center/che/health-all-policies-workgroup>.
- July 2020, sent a letter to local health officers requesting their action against the discretionary application of pesticides during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

CEHPAC also 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 for elevated blood lead levels. 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 continuations of previous activities (WiFi radiation and other environmental hazards in schools), responding to emerging concerns (asthma and climate change, health in all policies), and addressing concerns identified by 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.

### **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 2020

<b>Maryland Senate</b> The Honorable Guy Guzzone	<b>Licensed Healthcare Professional</b> 1) Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD 2) Laura Allen, MA, MS, RN
<b>Maryland House of Delegates</b> Vacant	<b>Representative from an academic institution</b> Kristen Rawlett, PhD, FNP-BC
<b>Maryland Department of Health (Chair)</b> Clifford Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH	<b>Parent or Guardian</b> Jovonne Walker
<b>Maryland Department of the Environment (Vice Chair)</b> Devon Dodson	<b>Environmental Epidemiologist</b> Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH
<b>Department of Agriculture</b> Kelly Love	<b>Economist</b> Vacant
<b>Maryland State Department of Education</b> Alicia Mezu, MSN/Ed, BSN, BS, RN	<b>Environmental Toxicologist</b> Megan Latshaw, Ph.D
<b>Department of Human Services</b> Shawnett Mills	<b>Maryland Association of Counties</b> Dianna Abney
<b>Department of Housing and Community Development</b> Caroline Varney-Alvarado	<b>Private Industry</b> Vacant
<b>The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services</b> Christina Drushel Williams	<b>Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities</b> Camille Burke (CEJSC Chair)