



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)
2021 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, Secretary, MDH
Ben Grumbles, JD, LL.M., Secretary, MDE
Heather Shek, JD, MS, Director 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*

*2021 Annual Report
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council
Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)*

December 2021

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary of Health

Ben Grumbles
Secretary of the Environment

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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 virtually in public session six times in 2021 as of this report. During the 2021 legislative session, CEHPAC discussed the following legislation and regulations:

Bill #	Bill Title
HB0022 (SB0195)	Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements
HB0051 (SB0121)	Zoning - Environmental Justice Considerations
HB0082 (SB0151)	Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
HB0129 (SB0070)	Environment - Mold Inspections - Standards, Reporting, and Penalties
HB0208/CH0626 (SB0375/CH0627)	Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Sale and Storage
HB0472	Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition
HB0503 (SB0518)	Environment - Office on Climate Change - Establishment
HB0583 (SB0414)	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021
HB0636/CH0237 (SB0546/CH0238)	School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)
HB0857	Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody and Reuse
HB1204	Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses (Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021)
HB1207/CH0634 (SB0674/CH0635)	Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform
HB1310	Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency - Investment in Low-Income Communities
SB0273	Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021

CEHPAC submitted a letter of support for HB 82/SB 151 (“Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights”) and a letter of information with amendments for HB 1204 (“Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses”).

In 2021, CEHPAC engaged in topics related to children’s environmental health, COVID-19, and school environments. Specifically, these topics included:

- Indoor air quality and ventilation in schools,
- Use of safer cleaning products in schools for COVID-19 cleaning procedures,

- Testing of drinking water outlets in schools for lead, and
- Potential for higher exposures to environmental hazards around the home due to school closures.

As a result of these discussions, CEHPAC sent three letters to state agencies requesting additional information or actions to be taken. Letters were sent to the Maryland Department of Agriculture concerning school integrated pest management plans; the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on the use of green cleaning products, and to MSDE and the Interagency Commission on School Construction regarding efforts to improve indoor air quality and ventilation in schools.

CEHPAC's products, including the letters described above, are available on the CEHPAC website: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

CEHPAC also heard regular updates regarding the State's progress addressing asthma, climate change, and childhood lead poisoning.

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 2021

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