



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 11, 2018

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

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
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)  
2018 Legislative Report of the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory  
Council

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

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, MD, MS, MPH  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary, MDH  
Ben Grumbles, JD, LLM, Secretary, MDE  
Webster Ye, JD, Deputy Chief of Staff, MDH Office of the Secretary  
Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA, Deputy Secretary, MDH Public Health Services  
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, MDH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #1460



*Maryland Department of Health  
Maryland Department of the Environment*

*2018 Annual Report  
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council  
Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)*

**December 2018**

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd Rutherford**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Robert R. Neall**  
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 the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. Specifically, this statute 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 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 2018, 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 2018 legislative session, CEHPAC held one meeting in Annapolis to allow the appointed delegate and senator, Delegate Angel and Senator Guzzone, to attend and share information on current legislation. CEHPAC submitted a letter of support for HB 116 / SB 500, *Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition*. All legislation and regulations discussed during the 2018 legislative session include:

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Bill Title</b>
HB 0057	Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers – Green Product Cleaning Supplies – Regulations
HB 0116 / SB 500	Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition
HB 183	Prince George’s County Environmental Justice Commission PG 411-18
HB 1110	Public Schools – Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures – Digital Devices
COMAR 26.16.07	Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

Throughout 2018, CEHPAC continued to discuss and provide input for the Health in All Policies Workgroup. The Workgroup requested CEHPAC to review and provide input to the section on “Data Sharing” to assist in the *“process to provide guidance to state and county agencies to facilitate data sharing between and within agencies be developed 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 resulting in a requirement for 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 regulations and hears regular updates on challenges and opportunities related to reducing lead exposure in children in the State.

Other topics of relevance discussed during 2018 included climate change, radiofrequency radiation (WiFi/cell phones), and continued interest in the school environment.

## **Future Priorities**

CEHPAC continues to work on the items described above and discussed 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 the Council membership. The Council will revisit some of the issues and concerns identified in the 2008 Council report, “Maryland’s Children and the Environment” (available at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Shared%20Documents/CEHPAC/Report-2008-FINAL.pdf>), with hopes of updating the document for publication in 2019.

## **Conclusion**

CEHPAC will continue reviewing proposed regulations and legislation to ensure that Maryland’s children are protected 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 2017

<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> The Honorable Angela Angel	<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> Dr. John Bridges
<b>Department of Education</b> Alicia Mezu	<b>Environmental Toxicologist</b> Dr. Megan Latshaw
<b>Department of Human Resources</b> Brandi Stockdale	<b>Maryland Association of Counties</b> Dr. Diana Abney
<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> Benoy Thomas