



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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)
2017 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 Neall, Secretary, MDH
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, MDE
Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary, MDH Public Health Services
Webster Ye, Director, MDH Office of Governmental Affairs
Donna Gugel, Director, MDH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Sarah Albert, MSAR #1460



**Maryland Department of Health
Maryland Department of the Environment**

**2017 Annual Report
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council
Health-General Article, §13-1506(8)**

December 2017

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Robert 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 has convened in public session seven times in 2017, 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 2017 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. Legislation discussed during the 2017 legislative session included:

- **HB 0007:** Environment – Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels – Environmental Investigation
- **HB 0133:** Environment – Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing – Notification of Elevated Blood Lead Level
- **HB 0206:** Public Health – Child Care Products Containing Flame-Retardant Chemicals – Prohibition
- **HB 0866 / SB 1089:** Primary and Secondary Education – Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures – Digital Devices
- **HB 1330:** Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers – Green Product Cleaning Supplies – Regulations
- **HB 1521:** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Commission to Study Firearm Violence – Establishment

Throughout 2017, CEHPAC discussed follow-up actions and steps after the release of the “Wi-Fi in Schools Report.” This issue was brought before CEHPAC as a public inquiry in 2014, and in 2016 CEHPAC formally adopted recommendations and published a report. The report and supporting materials can be found online at:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/WiFiCEHPAC.aspx>.

CEHPAC heard regular updates regarding the State's progress on its new lead testing initiative, which started in October 2015 with the release of the 2015 Targeting Plan, which defined the entire State of Maryland as “at risk” for lead exposure. Subsequently, the Maryland Department of Health revised its lead testing regulations for health care providers in March 2016, requiring all children born on or after January 1, 2015 to be tested at 12 and 24 months. CEHPAC is following the State's progress in implementing these regulations and is hearing regular updates on challenges and opportunities to reduce lead exposure in children in the State.

Other topics discussed during 2017 included climate change, health in all policies (CEHPAC members expressed interest in this initiative, which looks at how to incorporate health

considerations into the policy processes in other agencies), and continued interest in the school environment.

Future Priorities

CEHPAC continues to work on the items described above and has discussed a number of new priorities for the coming year. These include continuations of previous activities (synthetic turf, Wi-Fi radiation in schools, other environmental hazards in schools), and emerging concerns (asthma and climate change, health in all policies). The Council has also discussed the possibility of revisiting 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/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>).

Conclusion

CEHPAC will continue to review 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

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