

**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

Senate Bill 249

Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions

Position: Support
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Date: January 28, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 249. The bill proposes updates to Maryland's pesticide regulations, focusing on certification and responsibility standards for pesticide applicators. It establishes distinct requirements for commercial and private applications of both general and restricted use pesticides, ensuring oversight by certified applicators.

MDE supports SB 249 as it promotes enhanced safety and accountability in pesticide application by requiring more certified applicators. By establishing clear requirements for both general and restricted use pesticides and ensuring proper supervision of non-certified individuals, the bill reduces risks to public health and the environment. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has the expertise to lead the necessary training programs, making this a practical and effective approach to improving pesticide management across the state.

MDE does issue permit authorizations for use of certain pesticides when discharged into waters of the state. Those permit authorizations do rely on applicators being certified. This bill will expand the number of trained applicators and expand applicator competence. From MDE's perspective, the more certified and trained applicators the better.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 249.

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