


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 20-0495		

TO: Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young
TO: Health Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: Comments
RE: Council Bill – 20-0495

DATE: 5/2/20

INTRODUCTION – Pesticide Control and Regulation

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of regulating the use and application of pesticides in Baltimore City; defining certain terms; requiring certain notices at the time of pesticide purchase; requiring certain notices prior to and after pesticide application; requiring marker placement after certain pesticide applications; prohibiting the use of certain pesticides in specified areas; prohibiting the use and application of glyphosate and chlorpyrifos; prohibiting neonicotinoid pesticide use on City-owned property; establishing certain penalties; and providing for a special effective date.

COMMENTS – If passed, Council Bill 20-0495 would not only impact city agencies, but consumers as well. Retailers would be required to post signage approved by the Baltimore City Health Department informing buyers on the limited use of permitted pesticides within the City of Baltimore, as well as the prohibition of glyphosate and chlorpyrifos within Baltimore City limits.

Additional regulations would be required of commercial pesticide applicators. Applicators would be required to provide customers written notice of both trade and generic names of potentially used pesticides, safety precautions, as well as the trade and generic names of pesticides actually used. Markers indicating application would be required. Pesticide use for the purpose of agricultural purposes and exterior use around the foundation of buildings for the purpose of indoor pest control would be exempt from marker requirements.

Except as specifically outlined, application of pesticides containing glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids would be prohibited within Baltimore City on lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas, children's facilities, grounds of a children's facility, and playing fields. Application of these chemicals would be permitted for a limited number of activities including invasive species control, pest control, disease vector remediation, and agricultural purposes.

Violators of the bill’s provisions could result in a fine not to exceed \$250.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – Within the past year, the Department of Transportation adjusted their agency’s policy forbidding use of pesticides containing glyphosate by agency employees and contractors.

Baltimore City DOT is responsible for maintaining thousands of miles of right-of-way within Baltimore City limits. A reduction in the use of herbicide and pesticide would likely require the agency to shift more towards mechanical removal of weeds. Doing so would require training, procurement of necessary equipment, and likely would result in higher labor costs.

The Department of Transportation would be supportive of an inter-agency work group to help determine best practices for city agencies as the City of Baltimore looks to reduce usage of pesticides and herbicides containing glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at Liam.Davis@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-545-3207.

Sincerely,

Steve Sharkey
Director