



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Agency Legislative Liaisons**

**FROM: Clifford Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH, Director, Environmental Health Bureau;  
Chair, Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**

**DATE: July 7, 2023**

**RE: Review Process for Regulations Affecting Children's Environmental Health**

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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.

Among its responsibilities under Health General §13–1506, CEHPAC is directed 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; and
- (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.

As the Chair of CEHPAC, I have been directed by the Council to provide information on CEHPAC and its regulatory review process to state agencies which may promulgate regulations related to children's environmental health. Specific topics which are of interest to CEHPAC include:

- Asthma, lead, radon, mold, drinking water, and other housing issues
- Indoor air quality, pesticides, drinking water, and electromagnetic frequency radiation in schools and child care facilities

- Consumer products (PFAS chemicals, flame-retardant chemicals, pesticides, cleaning products, synthetic turf)
- Climate change and environmental justice

As part of the regulatory process, the proposing unit of government is required to disclose if the proposal has an impact on environmental hazards affecting the health of children as defined in Health-General Article, §13-1501(c). While this is one way that regulations proposals may be referred to CEHPAC for review, CEHPAC also encourages state agencies to reach out to CEHPAC early in the regulatory development process. CEHPAC is comprised of individuals with expertise and experience in various topics related to children's environmental health and can be a rich resource to assist state agencies. Any regulations received by CEHPAC will be reviewed thoroughly, and feedback will be provided timely on elements of the proposal that directly relate to children's environmental health.

CEHPAC respectfully requests your assistance in providing this information to offices in state agencies responsible for coordinating the promulgation of regulations that may include impacts to children's environmental health. More information on CEHPAC can be found at <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>.