

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 931

(Delegates Bozman and Conway)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Worcester County - Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board - Membership

This bill increases the membership of the Worcester County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board from five to seven, increases the number of members who must be owner-operators of commercial farms who earn 50% or more of their income from farming from three to four, and reduces the term of office for board members from five to four years. The bill also provides that the change in the length of term only affects members appointed after October 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Increasing the membership of the Worcester County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board would not affect county expenditures because board members do not receive any compensation for their service.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Worcester County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board has five members with each member serving a five-year term. At least three of the five members must be owner-operators of commercial farms that earn 50% or more of their income from farming.

Background: Chapter 883 of 1977 required counties with productive agricultural land to create an agricultural preservation advisory board. Every county has an active agricultural preservation advisory board. The Worcester County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board began in May 1985.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Worcester County, Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2003
mam/hlb

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