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By: **Delegates Sossi, Smigiel, and Walkup**  
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture - Commercial Fertilizer - Required Signage at Retail Outlets**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the label on each brand and grade of commercial  
4 fertilizer to bear a statement advising customers of certain damaging effects of  
5 fertilizer overuse and recommending receipt of a certain chemical analysis  
6 before using commercial fertilizer; requiring retail outlets distributing  
7 commercial fertilizer to display a certain sign advising customers of certain  
8 damaging effects of fertilizer overuse and recommending receipt of a certain  
9 chemical analysis before using commercial fertilizer; and generally relating to  
10 required signage at retail outlets distributing commercial fertilizer.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Agriculture  
13 Section 6-210(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article - Agriculture  
18 Section 6-210.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Agriculture**

24 6-210.

25 (a) Each brand and grade of commercial fertilizer distributed in the State  
26 shall be accompanied by a legible label bearing the following information:

27 (1) The net weight;

1                   (2)     The brand and grade under which the commercial fertilizer is  
2 distributed;

3                   (3)     The guaranteed analysis giving the minimum percentage of every  
4 plant nutrient claimed to be contained in the fertilizer; [and]

5                   (4)     Name and address of manufacturer; AND

6                   (5)     A STATEMENT ADVISING CUSTOMERS THAT:

7                           (I)     OVERUSE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER DAMAGES STATE  
8 WATERS, INCLUDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; AND

9                           (II)    CUSTOMERS CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING AND RESTORING  
10 THE HEALTH OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER STATE WATERS SHOULD,  
11 BEFORE USING A COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, RECEIVE A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE  
12 SOIL TO BE FERTILIZED FROM A LABORATORY UNDER OR RECOMMENDED BY THE  
13 MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.

14 6-210.1.

15     ANY RETAIL OUTLET DISTRIBUTING COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER SHALL HAVE  
16 DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY A SIGN ADVISING CUSTOMERS THAT:

17                   (1)     OVERUSE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER DAMAGES STATE WATERS,  
18 INCLUDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; AND

19                   (2)     CUSTOMERS CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING AND RESTORING THE  
20 HEALTH OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER STATE WATERS SHOULD, BEFORE  
21 USING A COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, RECEIVE A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOIL TO  
22 BE FERTILIZED FROM A LABORATORY UNDER OR RECOMMENDED BY THE MARYLAND  
23 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.

24     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
25 effect October 1, 2005.