



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

DATE: January 16, 2020

BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 92

SHORT TITLE: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE - WEED CONTROL LAW

MDA POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION:

This legislation adds language to the current statute that would allow the Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Noxious Weed Program to work with additional entities outside of county governments, i.e. Soil Conservation Districts. Current language refers to an agreement between the Secretary and a "county," but does not allow for agreements with a "subdivision of the state."

The Noxious Weed Program is a critical part of MDA's mission to protect and safeguard the state's plant and agriculture industries. The proposed language in SB 92 would allow the department to fully leverage strategic partnerships with organizations outside of county governments, which would significantly bolster efforts to control noxious weeds statewide.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.