



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

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## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

**DATE:** March 4, 2020

**BILL NUMBER:** HOUSE BILL 1438

**SHORT TITLE:** AGRICULTURE – PROCESSING OF POULTRY LITTER FOR ALTERNATIVE USE

**MDA POSITION:** INFORMATION

#### **EXPLANATION:**

House bill 1438 establishes requirements for the processing of poultry litter for an “alternative use” and for the product that results from the processing.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture currently administers the Animal Waste Technology Fund, which provides incentives to companies that demonstrate new technologies on farms and provide alternative strategies for managing animal manure. These technologies generate energy from animal manure, reduce on-farm waste streams, and repurpose manure by creating marketable fertilizer and other products and by-products.

The Animal Waste Technology Fund helps farmers address challenges in managing manure under Maryland's new nutrient management requirements. Alternative strategies for complying with these requirements may include altering the nutrient content of organic nutrient sources, using manure for energy generation, or developing new products that add value to improve farm viability. Program funding is provided by the Maryland Energy Administration and by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

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