

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1452 (Delegate Guns)  
Environmental Matters

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**Transfer of the Authority to Regulate the Land Application of Sewage Sludge from  
the Department of the Environment to the Department of Agriculture**

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This bill transfers the Sewage Sludge Program from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to the Department of Agriculture (MDA). Permitting, drafting of regulations, and responsibility for determining compliance are transferred to MDA.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures of approximately \$900,000 annually could transfer from MDE to MDA.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses would need to comply with appropriate regulations regardless of the regulating agency.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** MDE reports that annual revenues through the Sewage Sludge Utilization Fund are approximately \$900,000; expenditures for sewage sludge activities are also approximately this amount per year. These expenditures include salaries and benefits for approximately 10.5 full-time positions, programmatic expenses, and local grants. MDE did not provide detailed information to verify these revenues and expenditures.

It is assumed that under this bill all revenues and expenditures associated with this program would transfer to MDA; this would include the transfer of the 10.5 positions. However, MDA has not responded to requests for information on this legislation.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 1997

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