
By: **Delegates Bozman, Poole, Conway, McClenahan, and Walkup**
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 1998
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Woodland Incentive Program - Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from charging
4 fees for certain cost-share and technical assistance to landowners in
5 implementing approved forestry practices under the Woodland Incentive
6 Program; providing exceptions; and generally relating to the Woodland
7 Incentive Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Natural Resources
10 Section 5-305
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 5-305.

17 An approved applicant may receive cost-share assistance in the amount
18 determined and approved by the Department, provided:

19 (1) No assistance may exceed 75 percent of the actual cost incurred by
20 the applicant in implementing the approved practice on a particular tract of land;

21 (2) An eligible landowner may not receive more than \$5,000 in a
22 calendar year for all approved practices implemented by the landowner, unless the
23 owner has submitted a 3-year plan for woodland resource development under
24 paragraph (3) of this section; [and]

25 (3) If the Department has approved a 3-year plan for woodland resource
26 development, an eligible landowner may not receive more than \$15,000 during the
27 3-year period for all approved practices implemented by the landowner; AND

1 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW OR REGULATION TO THE CONTRARY,
2 THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT CHARGE ANY FEE FOR COST-SHARE AND TECHNICAL
3 ASSISTANCE IT MAY RENDER THE LANDOWNER IN IMPLEMENTING APPROVED
4 FORESTRY PRACTICES THAT EXCEEDS \$10 FOR EACH AFFECTED ACRE DURING A
5 6-MONTH PERIOD, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

6 (I) PLAN PREPARATION:

7 1. FOR 5 THROUGH 25 ACRES -- \$25;

8 2. FOR 26 THROUGH 50 ACRES -- \$50; AND

9 3. FOR 51 OR MORE ACRES -- \$75;

10 (II) PLAN INSPECTION -- \$25 PER INSPECTION;

11 (III) EQUIPMENT RENTAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF LAYING BEDDING
12 -- \$15 PER ACRE; AND

13 (IV) PLANTING SITE EXAMS -- \$15 PER EXAM.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1998.