

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1063 (Delegate Brinklev)

Environmental Matters

Lead Hazard Reduction - Agricultural and Conservation Property

This bill exempts property that is located in an area zoned primarily for agricultural or conservation uses from the provisions of law pertaining to the reduction of lead risk in housing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate decrease in Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) special fund revenue. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: There are an estimated 25,000-30,000 properties, which are assumed to comprise about 200,000 units, in MDE's registry of "affected properties." The bill would exempt owners of rental properties in land zoned for agricultural or conservation use from paying the \$10 rental registration fee required under the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for each residential rental property. However, MDE has no record of the number of affected properties that are located in land zoned for agricultural or conservation use. Therefore, a reliable estimate of the revenue loss cannot be made at this time.

Small Business Effect: Small business landlords could be impacted by the bill. These landlords would no longer be required to pay MDE the \$10 registration fee and would not

have to perform lead reduction procedures. However, they could also face increased liability and be subject to lawsuits because they would no longer be covered by the liability protection available under current law.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 1998

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