

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1108 (Delegate Baldwin. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

---

Maryland Right to Farm Law

---

This bill expands the types of agricultural activities that are protected from public or private nuisance actions by including the cultivation, raising, harvesting, or production of any farm product or any commercial activity related to agricultural activity. In addition, the bill repeals the requirement that an agricultural operation had to have been in effect for at least one year in order to be protected from a public or private nuisance action.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Expanding the protection of farmers from public or private nuisance actions should not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

---

Fiscal Analysis

**Small Business Effect:** According to statistics from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, agricultural activity in the State contributes approximately \$11 billion in revenue annually and employs 350,000 people. To the extent that the bill would further strengthen agricultural activity in Maryland by granting farmers additional protection against public or private nuisance litigation, small businesses involved in agricultural activities would be positively impacted.

---

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture; Carroll, Cecil, Harford,

Prince George's, and Queen Anne's counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 1998

mld

---

Analysis by: Mike Sanelli

Reviewed by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710