

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 398 (Senator Collins. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Hydraulic Clam Dredging

This emergency bill prohibits a person from using a hydraulic clam dredge in any submerged aquatic vegetation beds (SAVs). The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to delineate unprotected submerged aquatic vegetation beds in the waters of the State as documented in the most recent aerial surveys and to update this delineation as necessary.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Delineating submerged aquatic vegetation beds could be handled with DNR's existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: The bill would prohibit clam harvesters from harvesting soft shell clams within the SAV beds. To the extent that clam harvesters are forced to alter their operations to avoid the vegetation beds, it could result in a loss of revenue. However, at this time it is difficult to reliably estimate the revenue loss that could result.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1998

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Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 1998

Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 28, 1998

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