

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1020 (Delegate Conwav. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Wicomico County - Property Tax Credit - Agricultural Land and Easements

This bill authorizes Wicomico County to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on agricultural land and agricultural easements, not including any improvements, that are located in an agricultural preservation district.

Wicomico County shall specify (1) the amount and duration of the credit; (2) the qualification and application procedures for the credit; (3) the circumstances under which the credit shall terminate; and (4) any other requirement or procedure related to the credit that is considered necessary.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate decrease in Wicomico County revenues beginning in FY 2000.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful impact.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Based on information provided by Wicomico County to the Department of Assessments and Taxation, there are 61 agricultural preservation districts covering approximately 8,500 acres in the county. Assuming that the land is assessed as agricultural use land at \$150 per acre, the property has an assessed value of \$1.3 million. If Wicomico County decides to grant a full tax credit to all the property, county revenues would decrease by \$28,700 in fiscal 2000 and in future years based on Wicomico County's property tax rate of \$2.25 per \$100 of assessment.

Information Source(s): Wicomico County, Department of Assessments and Taxation

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 1999

ncs/jr Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 29, 1999

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