

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 583 (Senator Van Hollen. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Environment - Regulation of Poultry Processing Waste**

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This bill expands the definitions of “sewage” to include waste generated from a poultry processing plant and the definition of “sewage sludge” to include extract from poultry processing plants. The bill also expands the definitions of “sewage sludge generator” and “sewage sludge utilizer” to include poultry processing plants. As a result, the bill would require poultry processing plants to apply for and obtain sewage sludge utilization permits.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate increase in special fund revenue. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect** The bill allows for a variety of civil penalties to be assessed as a result of expanding the definitions of sewage, sewage sludge, sewage sludge generator, and sewage sludge utilizer. Any persons involved in poultry processing would be subject to the same penalties as those currently generating or utilizing sewage or sewage sludge. These penalties range from \$100 to \$10,000. All fines collected are to be paid into the Sewage Sludge Utilization Fund. However, the amount of any revenue increase cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) processes approximately 250 sewage sludge utilization permits annually. The bill would require an additional seven facilities to

apply for this permit. Permit fees are based on the nitrogen content of the sludge to be used, the nitrogen uptake of the crop to be planted, and the expected crop yield. Any resulting revenue is assumed to be minimal. Processing these permit applications could be handled with MDE's existing resources.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Legislative Services

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