

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 675 (Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Washington County - Right to Farm

This bill authorizes the Washington County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance or regulation, or take any other action considered necessary, to protect a person's right to farm or engage in agricultural or forestry operation provided that the county commissioners first hold a public hearing and reasonable notice is provided to the public regarding the hearing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not materially alter State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None. Washington County could handle the bill's requirements with existing county resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: According to statistics provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, agricultural activity in the State contributes approximately \$11 billion in revenue and employs 350,000 people. To the extent that the bill would further strengthen agricultural activity in Washington County by granting farmers additional protections, small businesses involved in agricultural activities would be positively impacted.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 1999

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