

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 706 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Agriculture)

Environmental Matters

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**Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans -  
Use of Information**

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This departmental bill requires supervisors in local conservation districts to maintain information from a soil conservation and water quality plan in a manner that protects the identity of the person for whom the plan is prepared. However, the plan must be made available to the Maryland Department of the Environment for enforcement action relating to water quality and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) which may use the information for statistical purposes. The bill requires MDA to (1) maintain the information in the manner that protects the identity of the person for whom the plan is prepared; and (2) make any information from a plan available to the Maryland Department of the Environment to support the development of a compliance or enforcement case for purposes of addressing an existing water quality problem in accordance with procedures established between the two departments and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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

Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - March 4, 1999

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Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 1999

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Analysis by: Mike Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510