

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 616 (Senators Haines and Ferguson)
(Carroll County Senators)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Carroll County - Forest Conservation Program - Agricultural Preservation Land -
Exceptions**

This bill exempts any activity conducted on land in Carroll County that has been placed into an agricultural land preservation easement administered by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation from requirements of the Forest Conservation Act relating to sediment and erosion control plans.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal impact on Carroll County. The bill would only affect a small number of properties.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The Forest Conservation Act provides that before an application for sediment and erosion control or subdivision is approved, a local jurisdiction must approve a forest conservation plan for the site. The plan, and its accompanying forest stand delineation, identifies and protects forests located in sensitive areas, including stream buffers, steep slopes, and flood plains. The amount of forest retained on the site is set at levels deemed consistent with projected land use. If this is not possible, options for mitigation exist through off-site planting or payments into a local reforestation fund. The Act also allows local jurisdictions to develop programs that address specific land use issues.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture (Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation), Department of Natural Resources, Carroll County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1999

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