

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 67 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Agriculture)

Environmental Matters

Department of Agriculture - Cost Sharing for Water Pollution Control

This departmental bill increases the amount of State funds, from \$50,000 to \$75,000, that may be contributed for a pollution control project under the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Total revenues and expenditures of the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program would not change. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Agriculture has determined that this bill has a meaningful impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program was established in 1983 in order to help farmers pay the cost of installing pollution control practices that protect water quality. In fiscal 1999, \$5.9 million was appropriated in PAYGO general funds for the program. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2000 budget includes \$4.8 million in PAYGO general funds for the program. Assuming that overall funding for the program remains the same, increasing the amount of funds for each project could result in fewer

projects but will not affect total program expenditures.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 1999

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