

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 887 (Delegate Fulton)

Environmental Matters

Food Labeling and Synthetic Bovine Growth Hormone Prohibition

This bill prohibits the use of “synthetic BGH” or any growth hormone in livestock intended for production or used to produce milk for sale in Maryland. Food containing engineered or reengineered genetic material must be labeled with the following language: “this product was made with engineered or reengineered genetic material.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The sale and use of the bovine synthetic growth hormone is regulated by the federal government.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: There are 834 dairy herds in Maryland that are permitted to produce milk for sale. The prohibition of the use of growth hormones could remove an effective means of enhancing milk production that is used by many of Maryland’s dairy farmers. As a result, this could reduce their ability to compete with dairy farmers in other States that allow the use of growth hormones.

To the extent that small businesses are involved in the processing and sale of genetically engineered or reengineered farm produce, they could incur increased labeling costs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 8, 1999

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