

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 227 (Senator Frosh)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Agriculture - Organically Produced Commodities**

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This bill provides that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) may not require a certified organic farmer to use a practice or pesticide on land that grows organically produced commodities if the practice or pesticide is prohibited by (1) the Federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990; or (2) regulations promulgated by the department.

The bill also provides that persons who are certified as organic farmers may not use a practice or pesticide prohibited by the Federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 on land that grows organically produced commodities. Violators of this provision are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

This bill takes effect June 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal general fund revenue increase due to the bill's civil penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Effect:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture advises that there are between 50 and 60 registered organic farmers. To the extent that these farmers are fined for violations of the provisions of the bill general fund revenues would increase. At this time, the extent of any revenue increase cannot be reliably estimated, however, it is assumed to be minimal.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 1999  
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