
By: **Delegate O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Woodland Incentives Program - Administrative Fees - Exemption**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain property from certain fees imposed under the

4 Woodland Incentive Program.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

6 Article - Natural Resources

7 Section 5-303

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Natural Resources**

13 5-303.

14 (a) The Department shall develop and implement a Woodland Incentives

15 Program to assist eligible landowners in conducting a program of woodland

16 management.

17 (b) (1) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of

18 this subtitle.

19 (2) Regulations under subsection (a) of this section shall include

20 consideration of:

21 (i) The establishment of land size limits for which cost-share

22 assistance may be granted;

23 (ii) A determination of practices that are eligible for cost-sharing

24 assistance;

1 (iii) Subject to the limitations imposed by this subtitle, the
2 establishment of maximum amounts of assistance that an eligible landowner may
3 receive for implementation of an approved practice;

4 (iv) The establishment of criteria for prioritizing applications,
5 including size of land, soil productivity, and tree species;

6 (v) A periodic review of actual costs of woodland development
7 practices;

8 (vi) The establishment of criteria for Department assistance in
9 implementation of an approved practice;

10 (vii) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
11 imposition by the Department of reasonable charges for implementation assistance;
12 and

13 (viii) A system of monitoring the implementation of approved
14 practices.

15 (3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT IMPOSE AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OR
16 APPLICATION FEE ON A PRIVATE OWNER WITH RESPECT TO NONINDUSTRIAL LAND
17 INCLUDED OR PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE WOODLAND INCENTIVES
18 PROGRAM.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2000.