

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 740 (Delegate Rudolph. *et al.*)

Appropriations

Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

This bill establishes an 18-member task force to study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, describes its composition, and requires the task force to meet at least once a month. The task force must: (1) study the current program and practices of the foundation; (2) study the financial standing of the foundation; (3) review and make recommendations on legislation affecting the foundation considered by the General Assembly in the 2000 session; and (4) make recommendations to improve the program, practices, and financial standing of the foundation. The task force must submit an interim report of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2000. The task force must submit a final report by July 31, 2001. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture to coordinate with other State agencies to provide staffing for the task force.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000 and sunsets July 31, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Maryland Department of Agriculture are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation was created by the General Assembly in 1977 (Chapter 833 of 1977) to preserve agricultural land and woodland in the State, provide for the continued production of food and fiber, curb the expansion of urban development, and protect agricultural land and woodland as open space. Agricultural preservation districts are formed when qualifying landowners sign voluntary agreements to keep their land in agricultural or woodland use for a minimum of five years. Landowners who agree to place their farms within a district may sell a development rights easement on that property to the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2000
jir/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2000
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