

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 773 (Delegate O'Donnell)

Environmental Matters

Woodland Incentive Program - Administrative Fees - Exemption

This bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from imposing an administrative fee or application fee on a private owner with respect to nonindustrial land included or proposed for inclusion in the Woodland Incentives Program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because DNR would no longer be able to impose fees on landowners, special fund revenues will decrease by an estimated \$115,000 annually. No effect on expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)
SF Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)	(\$115,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Woodland Incentives Program in DNR was established to assist eligible landowners in conducting a program of woodland management. The Secretary adopts regulations to carry out the program, including the consideration of the imposition of reasonable charges for implementation assistance.

Background: The Woodland Incentives Fund is used to implement the program. Its sources of funding include revenue from the agricultural transfer tax and fees imposed by DNR on landowners for assistance in implementing approved management practices. It receives

approximately \$100,000 annually from the transfer tax and approximately \$115,000 annually from charges to landowners. In 1999, the program provided reimbursements totaling \$102,000 to 103 landowners in 13 counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2000
cm/jr

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