

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 159 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
 (Departmental - Agriculture)

Environmental Matters

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**Pesticide Applicator's Law - Fees**

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This departmental bill increases the annual fee for a pest control consultant certificate or pest control applicator certificate from \$50 to \$65.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenue increase of \$48,000 in FY 2001 due to an increase in certification fees. Future year estimates reflect annual increases in the number of certificates issued. The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2001 includes anticipated increases in special fund revenues in the Pesticide Fund.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$48,000	\$48,800	\$49,100	\$49,500	\$49,900
SF Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$48,000	\$48,800	\$49,100	\$49,500	\$49,900

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Each pest control consultant, pest control applicator, or public agency applicator is required to obtain an annual certificate indicating competence in one or more established categories. The current fee to obtain a pest control consultant or pest control applicator certificate is \$50 for one category plus \$25 for each additional category.

**Background:** MDA advises that it will certify approximately 3,200 pest control applicators in fiscal 2001. Revenue from the certification fee is used to pay salaries and operating expenses of employees who conduct the pesticide applicator training, testing, and certification program. The fee has remained at \$50 since approximately 1976. MDA advises that additional revenue is needed to fund increased salary costs and to address the increased demands on the pesticide program for applicator certification and training needs.

**State Fiscal Effect:** MDA advises that it will certify approximately 3,200 pest control applicators in fiscal 2001. Because the bill increases the annual certification fee by \$15, special fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$48,000 in fiscal 2001. Future year estimates assume that MDA will certify an additional 50 applicators in fiscal 2002 and an additional 25 applicators annually thereafter. MDA advises that the increase in special fund revenue will be used to cover increased program operating costs. All fees are paid into the Pesticide Fund. The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2001 reflects the increase in special fund revenue resulting from this bill, but does not make expenditures contingent upon enactment of the bill.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2000  
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