

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 643 (Delegates Glassman and James)
Environmental Matters

Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service - Horses

This bill requires the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service to conduct a census of the number of horses on Maryland farms in the years in which the Census of Agriculture is conducted.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is federally funded, State operations and finances would not be directly affected. Should the State choose to fund the census, however, expenditures could increase by approximately \$100,000 over the FY 2002 - 2003 period for contractual services and operating costs.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The staff of the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service compiles information on agricultural production, market prices, cropping practices, crop conditions, agricultural weather, estimates of acreage to be planted or livestock to be produced, and other data pertinent to maintaining accurate records. These reports are distributed to farmers, agribusiness firms, wholesalers, and retailers to assist them in

making management decisions. According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Census of Agriculture is completed every five years. The next census is scheduled to be conducted in 2002.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 13, 2001
ef/jr

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