

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 578 (Senator Hafer, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

Garrett County - Right to Farm

This bill authorizes the Garrett County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance or regulation, or take any other action considered necessary, to protect a person's right to farm or engage in agricultural or forestry operations. The county commissioners must first hold a public hearing and provide reasonable notice of the hearing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Garrett County could handle the bill's requirements with existing county resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Several counties have the authority to adopt right to farm ordinances or regulations, such as Charles, Dorchester, Somerset, and Washington counties.

Small Business Effect: According to statistics provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, agricultural activity in the State contributes approximately \$11 billion in revenue annually and employs 350,000 people. To the extent that the bill would strengthen agricultural activity in Garrett County by granting farmers additional protections, small businesses involved in agricultural activities would be positively impacted.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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