

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1299 (Delegate Owings)  
Environmental Matters

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**Environment - Land Clearing Debris Permits - Farm Exemption**

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This bill exempts a person who deposits land-clearing debris from a working farm into a ravine on the working farm or another working farm from refuse disposal permitting requirements.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2002.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not significantly affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Land clearing debris is considered solid waste. As such, facilities that accept land-clearing debris must be permitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), except under specified conditions. There is no permit fee. Sanitary landfills restricted to the acceptance of land clearing debris are subject to different (less stringent) requirements than other landfills. A land clearing debris landfill is restricted to accepting the following waste materials from land clearing operations: earthen material, topsoil, tree stumps, root mats, brush and limbs, logs, vegetation, and rock.

Refuse disposal permits are not required for the following: (1) land disposal areas for solid waste generated from single-family residences within the property limits under

specified conditions; (2) land disposal areas that are not part of a system of refuse disposal for public use; (3) land disposal of “agricultural waste” on agricultural land; (4) land disposal of overburden resulting from mining operations; (5) filling operations that consist solely of the importation of clean earthen fill under specified conditions; (6) facilities or systems regulated by MDE under specified programs; and (7) pozzolan management activities conducted pursuant to current law. Agricultural waste does not include residuals generated during land clearing exercises unless the cleared land is intended solely for agricultural purposes.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2002  
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Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510