

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 503

(Delegate V. Clagett, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Agriculture - Pesticides - Maryland Pesticide Advisory Council

This bill establishes a 24-member Maryland Pesticide Advisory Council to advise and assist the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor, and other State agencies on matters involving pesticides. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) must provide staff to the council, but the council may also call on the staff of the State agencies represented on the council. The council must report, by December 1 of each year, to the Secretary, the Governor, and the General Assembly on its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill essentially codifies the existing Governor's Pesticide Council that was established by Executive Order in 1990.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The council must advise and assist the Secretary, the Governor, and other State agencies on matters including: (1) reviewing and recommending measures to address the long-term problems and issues, including homeland security, relating to pesticide manufacturing, transporting, storage, use, and disposal; (2) reviewing and recommending measures to address specific pesticide issues, including several specified in the bill; and (3) recommending proposed legislation, regulations, and policies

necessary for the management and control of pesticides and for the protection of public health and the environment.

The State agencies represented on the council include MDA, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Current Law: MDA regulates the use of pesticides, licenses businesses that commercially apply pesticides, trains and certifies pesticide applicators, and enforces pesticide laws and regulations.

Background: In response to concern about the use of pesticides and their effects on people, wildlife, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Governor established the Governor's Pesticide Council by Executive Order in January 1990. The 23-member council reviews pesticide management programs and recommends actions to safeguard the health of citizens and the environment. The council considers pesticide manufacture, transport, storage, use, and disposal, and evaluates the Toxics Management Strategy of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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