

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 215

(Frederick County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Frederick County and Frederick City - Environmental Noise Standards -  
Fairgrounds - Exemption**

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This bill provides that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) may not adopt environmental noise standards, sound level limits, or noise control rules and regulations that apply to noise from: (1) a fair listed in the Maryland Agricultural Fairs and Shows Schedule; or (2) any other event held on the same grounds as a fair. The bill applies only in Frederick County and Frederick City.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None. The bill would not significantly affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** MDE establishes noise standards, sound level limits, and noise control rules and regulations as necessary to protect the public health, the general welfare, and property. MDE is not authorized to adopt standards, limits, or rules and regulations that apply to noise from construction or repair work on public property or fire or rescue station alerting devices. MDE must enforce the noise control rules and regulations. To

the extent possible, MDE must use the facilities and services of appropriate agencies of political subdivisions in its enforcement.

**Background:** The only fair in Frederick County or Frederick City that was listed in the Maryland Agricultural Fairs and Shows Schedule for 2002 was the Great Frederick Fair held at the Frederick Fairgrounds in Frederick City. Numerous events, such as animal field days and agricultural events, are also held at the fairgrounds.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 361 (Senators Brinkley and Mooney) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2003  
lc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2003

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