

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1396

(Delegate Stull, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Environmental Sanitarians - Milk Safety Inspector Exception

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This bill exempts State milk safety inspectors performing duties under the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) and employed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) from the requirement to obtain an environmental sanitarian license from the Board of Environmental Sanitarians.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill would not significantly affect State finances. Based on information provided by DHMH and the Maryland Department of the Environment, existing State milk safety inspectors would likely choose to continue to be licensed. The bill could, however, expand the pool of individuals eligible to apply to DHMH for inspector positions.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Except as otherwise provided, an individual must be licensed by the Board of Environmental Sanitarians before the individual may practice as an environmental sanitarian in the State. "Practice as an environmental sanitarian" means, as a major component of employment, to apply academic principles, methods, and procedures of the environmental, physical, biological, and health sciences to the inspections and investigations necessary to collect and analyze data and to make

decisions necessary to secure compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations relating to control of the public health aspects of the environment, including, among other things, the manufacture, preparation, handling, distribution, or sale of milk. A number of exemptions apply.

**Background:** NCIMS is a cooperative agreement between industry and government; the main goal of NCIMS is to assure a safe milk supply. According to DHMH, there are 750 dairy farms statewide; 48 licensed in-state dairy processors; 162 licensed out-of-state dairy processors; and 251 permitted bulk haulers. Currently, there are nine State milk safety inspectors employed by DHMH to inspect these entities. DHMH advises that the recruitment of qualified individuals to conduct milk safety inspections has been a concern; expanding the pool of candidates to those who are not licensed environmental sanitarians may improve its recruitment efforts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2004  
ncs/ljm

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