

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 73

(Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Agriculture)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Agricultural Commission - Membership

This departmental bill expands the membership of the Maryland Agricultural Commission from 24 to 29 members. The bill increases from one to two the number of members representing the nursery industry and adds new members representing agri-business, the forestry industry, the aquaculture industry, and agri-tourism.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for additional commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Agriculture has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Agricultural Commission consists of 24 members representing commodities across the State. The mission of the commission is to provide advice and counsel to the Secretary of Agriculture on agriculturally-related issues, in addition to offering assistance to the Secretary in the establishment of laws,

regulations, and policies that will help ensure a viable and environmentally safe ecosystem within the agriculture industry.

The agriculture industry is the largest commercial industry in the State and contributes approximately \$11 billion in revenue annually to the State's economy and employs approximately 350,000 residents. The expansion of the membership is intended to take into account the newer and expanding segments of the agriculture industry in the State.

Commission members do not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursements for reasonable expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2005
mll/ljm Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 20, 2005

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