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By: **Delegates Sossi, Eckardt, Elmore, Haddaway, Smigiel, and Walkup**  
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 1, 2006

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture - Commercial Fertilizer - Required Signage at Retail Outlets**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring retail outlets distributing commercial fertilizer in bags  
4 weighing a certain amount or more to display a certain sign advising customers  
5 of certain damaging effects of fertilizer overuse and recommending receipt of a  
6 certain chemical analysis before using commercial fertilizer; requiring the  
7 Department of Agriculture to develop and distribute a certain sign to certain  
8 retailers; and generally relating to required signage at certain retail outlets  
9 distributing commercial fertilizer.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article - Agriculture  
12 Section 6-210.1  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Agriculture**

18 6-210.1.

19 (A) ANY RETAIL OUTLET DISTRIBUTING COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER IN BAGS  
20 WEIGHING 50 POUNDS OR MORE SHALL DISPLAY PROMINENTLY A SIGN ADVISING  
21 CUSTOMERS THAT:

1 (1) OVERUSE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER DAMAGES STATE WATERS,  
2 INCLUDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; AND

3 (2) CUSTOMERS CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING AND RESTORING THE  
4 HEALTH OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER STATE WATERS SHOULD, BEFORE  
5 USING A COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER, RECEIVE A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOIL TO  
6 BE FERTILIZED FROM A SOIL-TESTING LABORATORY.

7 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAKE AVAILABLE AT NO COST  
8 TO AN AFFECTED RETAILER A SIGN THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
9 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
11 effect October 1, 2006.