

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 108

(Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Aquaculture - Transgenic and Genetically Altered Species - Prohibitions - Sunset
Extension**

This bill extends the termination date, from September 30, 2006 to December 31, 2011, of a provision that prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from issuing a permit for the raising of a transgenic species or a genetically altered species except under specified conditions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill merely extends an existing prohibition.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 54 of 2001 prohibited DNR from issuing an aquaculture permit for the raising of a transgenic species or a genetically altered species unless two conditions are met. The permit must limit the operation to waters of the State that do not flow into any other body of water, and the operation must be constructed in a manner that assures that transgenic or genetically altered stocks are precluded from entering any other waters or contaminating other aquatic species of the State.

“Transgenic” means an organism into which genetic material from another organism has been experimentally transferred, so that the host acquires the genetic traits of the transferred genes.

This prohibition sunsets on September 30, 2006.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2006
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Lesley G. Cook

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510