

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1292 (Chair, Environmental Matters Committee) (By Request –  
Departmental – Agriculture)  
Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Department of Agriculture - Honey Bees**

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This departmental bill allows the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to set the time period within which a honey bee colony or used bee equipment shipped or transported into Maryland must have been inspected and certified as disease free by an authorized apiary inspector in the state of origin.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** MDA has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Any honey bee colony or used bee equipment shipped or transported into the State must be accompanied by an entry permit issued by MDA and a valid inspection certificate issued by an authorized apiary inspector of the state of origin. The certificate must state that the colony or equipment is disease free based on an inspection by that inspector within the preceding two months.

**Background:** Maryland is a signatory state of the *Mid-Eastern States Agreement for Certification Requirements for the Movement of Honey Bee Colonies between Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia*. The agreement is being revised and includes a proposed increase in the time requirement for inspections prior to movement of colonies between states from two months to one year. The bill's change would allow Maryland to comply with the change to the agreement while also allowing MDA to set more restrictive time periods for colonies or equipment being transported from other parts of the country where there may be greater risk of pests or disease.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2007  
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