

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 64 (Senator Middleton)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Young Farmers Advisory Board - Termination Date - Repeal

This bill makes permanent the Young Farmers Advisory Board by repealing the September 30, 2007 termination date.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The expenses of the board are absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 517 of 2004 established a 12-member Young Farmers Advisory Board within the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to, among other things: (1) communicate the importance of young and beginning farmers to agriculture in the State; (2) identify and address issues relating to young and beginning farmers in the State and make recommendations to the Maryland Agricultural Commission; and (3) establish committees as necessary to develop projects relating to the aspects of life for young and beginning farmers. MDA must provide staff for the board. The chairperson or a designee must attend meetings of the Maryland Agricultural Commission and provide a quarterly report to the commission. A member may not receive compensation but is

entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The board terminates at the end of September 30, 2007.

Background: According to U.S. Department of Agriculture data, there were 12,100 farms in Maryland covering roughly 2 million acres in 2005. Under the most recent Census of Agriculture in 2002, the average age of a principal farm operator in Maryland was 56 and the average net cash income of a farm operation was \$20,230.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 2007
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