

HOUSE BILL 609

M4, M3

9lr2804
CF SB 553

By: **Delegates Holmes, Carr, V. Clagett, ~~and Niemann~~ Niemann, and Manno**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2009

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Phosphorous Reduction Act of 2009**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a certain fertilizer from being labeled in a certain
4 manner on or after a certain date; requiring a certain fertilizer to be marked
5 with certain words in a certain manner on or after a certain date; prohibiting a
6 certain person from selling or distributing certain fertilizer at a retail
7 establishment on or after a certain date unless it is low phosphorous fertilizer;
8 requiring certain manufacturers to reduce phosphorous levels resulting from
9 the application of their lawn care products by a certain amount and on or before
10 a certain date; prohibiting certain manufacturers from exceeding certain
11 phosphorous levels in their lawn care products under certain circumstances;
12 requiring certain manufacturers to report certain phosphorous levels annually
13 to the Department of Agriculture after a certain date; authorizing the
14 Department to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally
15 relating to fertilizer and phosphorus.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Agriculture
18 Section 6–201 and 6–210
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article – Agriculture
23 Section 6–222
24 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

4 **Article – Agriculture**

5 6–201.

6 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (b) A commercial fertilizer is “adulterated” if:

8 (1) Any poisonous, deleterious, or nonnutritive ingredient is added in
9 sufficient amount to render it injurious to the health of plants, humans, or animal life
10 or injurious to the environment;

11 (2) A valuable constituent is omitted or abstracted wholly or partially
12 from it or any less valuable substance is substituted for it; or

13 (3) Its composition or quality falls below or differs from that which it
14 is purported or is represented to contain by its labeling.

15 (c) “Brand” means the term, design, trademark, or other specific designation
16 under which a commercial fertilizer or soil conditioner is distributed in the State.

17 (d) “Bulk fertilizer” means any commercial fertilizer distributed in a
18 nonpackaged form.

19 (e) “Buyer’s mixture” means commercial fertilizer mixed on specific request
20 of a purchaser according to a formula furnished by him.

21 (f) “Commercial fertilizer” means any substance containing a recognized
22 plant nutrient used for its plant nutrient content and designed for use or claimed to
23 have value in promoting plant growth, except unmanipulated animal and vegetable
24 manure, marl, lime, wood ashes, and gypsum.

25 (g) “Custom–mix” means commercial fertilizer mixed on specific request of a
26 purchaser according to a formula furnished by him.

27 (h) “Distribute” means to import, manufacture, produce, compound, mix,
28 blend, barter, sell, offer for sale, consign, furnish, provide, or otherwise supply
29 commercial fertilizer or soil conditioners as part of a commercial enterprise.

30 (i) “Fertilizer material” means a commercial fertilizer containing a
31 recognized plant nutrient, which is used primarily for its plant nutrient content.

1 (j) "Grade" means the percentage of total nitrogen (N), available phosphoric
2 acid (H_3PO_4), and soluble potash (K_2O) stated in whole numbers in the same terms,
3 order, and percentages as in the "guaranteed analysis". In the case of any "specialty
4 fertilizer" or "mixed-to-order fertilizer" guarantees may be stated in decimal fractions
5 of whole numbers.

6 (k) "Guaranteed analysis" means the minimum percentage of plant nutrient
7 claimed as follows:

8 (1) Total nitrogen (N), available phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4), soluble
9 potash (K_2O);

10 (2) For unacidulated mineral phosphatic materials and basic slag,
11 both total and available phosphoric acid and the degree of fineness;

12 (3) For bone, tankage, and other organic phosphatic materials, total
13 phosphoric acid;

14 (4) Additional plant nutrients, when claimed, shall be expressed in
15 elemental form; and

16 (5) Potential basicity or acidity may be expressed in terms of calcium
17 carbonate equivalent in multiples of 100 pounds per ton.

18 (l) "Gypsum" means any product that consists chiefly of calcium sulfate
19 intended for use for agricultural purposes.

20 (m) "Label" means the display of all written, printed, or graphic matter on the
21 immediate container or a statement accompanying a commercial fertilizer or soil
22 conditioner.

23 (n) "Labeling" means all written, printed, or graphic matter on or
24 accompanying any commercial fertilizer or soil conditioner, or the contents of any
25 advertisement, brochure, poster or television or radio announcement used in
26 promoting the sale of a commercial fertilizer or soil conditioner.

27 (o) "Lot" means a definite quantity of commercial fertilizer or soil
28 conditioner, identified by name, grade, or code designation as certified by the
29 Secretary.

30 (P) **"LOW PHOSPHOROUS FERTILIZER" MEANS FERTILIZER:**

31 (1) **CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 5% OF AVAILABLE**
32 **PHOSPHORIC ACID (H_3PO_4); AND**

33 (2) **THAT HAS AN APPLICATION RATE NOT TO EXCEED 0.25**
34 **POUND OF AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (H_3PO_4)/1,000 SQUARE**

1 **FEET/APPLICATION AND 0.5 POUND OF AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID**
2 **(H₃PO₄)/1,000 SQUARE FEET/YEAR.**

3 [(p)] (Q) A commercial fertilizer or soil conditioner is “misbranded”, if:

4 (1) Its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;

5 (2) It is distributed under the name of another product;

6 (3) It is not labeled as required in § 6–210 of this subtitle and in rules
7 and regulations prescribed under this subtitle;

8 (4) A fertilizer purports to be or is represented as a commercial
9 fertilizer or if it purports to contain or is represented as containing a fertilizer
10 material, unless the fertilizer material conforms to any definition of identity,
11 prescribed by departmental rules and regulations which give due regard to commonly
12 accepted definitions, such as those issued by the Association of American Plant Food
13 Control Officials, Inc.; or

14 (5) Any word, statement, or other information, required to appear on
15 the label or labeling, is not placed on it prominently and conspicuously as compared
16 with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the labeling, and it is not in terms
17 that render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under
18 customary conditions of purchase and use.

19 [(q)] (R) “Mixed fertilizer” means a commercial fertilizer containing any
20 combination, blend, or mixture of fertilizer materials designed for use or claimed to
21 have value in promoting plant growth.

22 [(r)] (S) “Mixed-to-order” means commercial fertilizer mixed on a specific
23 request of a purchaser according to a formula furnished by him.

24 [(s)] (T) “Official sample” means any sample of fertilizer or soil conditioner
25 taken and designated as “official” by the Secretary.

26 [(t)] (U) “Percent” or “percentage” means percentage by weight.

27 [(u)] (V) “Registrant” means any person who registers a commercial
28 fertilizer or soil conditioner pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle.

29 (W) **“RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–401**
30 **OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.**

31 [(v)] (X) (1) “Soil conditioner” means any substance or mixture of
32 substances intended for sale, offered for sale, or sold for:

33 (i) Manurial, soil enriching, or soil corrective purposes;

- 1 (ii) Promoting or stimulating the growth of plants;
- 2 (iii) Increasing the productivity of plants;
- 3 (iv) Improving the quality of crops; or
- 4 (v) Producing any chemical or physical change in the soil,
5 except a commercial fertilizer, unmanipulated animal and vegetable manures,
6 agricultural liming material, and gypsum.

7 (2) "Soil conditioner" includes but is not limited to materials such as
8 compost, peat, vermiculite, or perlite, that are incorporated into the soil.

9 [(w)] (Y) "Specialty fertilizer" means a commercial fertilizer distributed
10 primarily for nonfarm use, such as home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, golf
11 courses, municipal parks, cemeteries, greenhouses, and nurseries, and may include
12 commercial fertilizers used for any research or experimental purpose.

13 [(x)] (Z) "Ton" means a net weight of two thousand pounds avoirdupois.

14 6-210.

15 (a) Each brand and grade of commercial fertilizer distributed in the State
16 shall be accompanied by a legible label bearing the following information:

- 17 (1) The net weight;
- 18 (2) The brand and grade under which the commercial fertilizer is
19 distributed;
- 20 (3) The guaranteed analysis giving the minimum percentage of every
21 plant nutrient claimed to be contained in the fertilizer; and
- 22 (4) Name and address of manufacturer.

23 (b) If distributed in bulk, a written or printed statement of the information
24 required by subsection (a) of this section shall accompany delivery and be supplied to
25 the purchaser at the time of delivery.

26 (c) Any fertilizer mixed or blended according to a formula furnished by a
27 purchaser shall be marked plainly or tagged with the words "buyer's mixture", or
28 "mixed-to-order", or "custom-mix" together with a statement containing the following
29 information:

- 30 (1) Net weight;

1 (2) The guaranteed analysis giving the minimum percentage of every
2 plant nutrient claimed to be contained in the fertilizer; and

3 (3) Name and address of the manufacturer. In addition, the amounts
4 or kinds of materials used in the formulation may be shown.

5 (d) A specialty fertilizer shall be labeled to contain all information required
6 by subsection (a) of this section in a legible and conspicuous manner on at least one
7 side of the container. If it does not appear on the face or display side of the container,
8 it shall appear on the upper third of the side used.

9 **(E) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
10 **SUBSECTION, ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 2011, A LAWN FERTILIZER WITH AN**
11 **AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (H₃PO₄) CONTENT GREATER THAN 5%:**

12 **(I) MAY NOT BE LABELED FOR USE ON ESTABLISHED**
13 **LAWNS OR GRASS;**

14 **(II) MAY NOT BE LABELED WITH SPREADER SETTINGS; AND**

15 **(III) SHALL BE MARKED WITH THE WORDS “NOT FOR USE**
16 **ON ESTABLISHED LAWNS OR GRASS” IN AT LEAST A THREE-QUARTER**
17 **INCH FONT AND IN A LEGIBLE AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER ON THE FRONT SIDE**
18 **OF THE CONTAINER.**

19 **(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SEED STARTER**
20 **FERTILIZER FOR USE ON NEWLY ESTABLISHED LAWNS OR TURF.**

21 **[(e)] (F)** Each brand of soil conditioner distributed in the State shall be
22 accompanied by a legible label bearing the following information:

23 (1) Net weight or other measure prescribed as satisfactory by the
24 Secretary;

25 (2) The brand under which the soil conditioner is distributed;

26 (3) An accurate statement of composition and purpose; and

27 (4) Name and address of the registrant.

28 **6-222.**

29 **(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
30 **SUBSECTION, ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 2011, A PERSON MAY NOT SELL OR**
31 **DISTRIBUTE FOR USE OR SALE AT A RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE STATE ANY**

1 FERTILIZER INTENDED FOR USE ON ESTABLISHED LAWNS OR GRASS UNLESS IT
2 IS LOW PHOSPHOROUS FERTILIZER.

3 (2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

4 (I) A LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR WHO IS LICENSED
5 UNDER TITLE 8 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE; OR

6 (II) A SALESPERSON, EMPLOYEE, OR OTHER AGENT OF A
7 LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR WHO IS LICENSED UNDER TITLE 8 OF THE
8 BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.

9 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2011, A MANUFACTURER OF LAWN
10 FERTILIZER WHOSE PRODUCTS ARE SOLD IN THE STATE SHALL REDUCE BY 50%
11 FROM 2006 LEVELS THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (H_3PO_4)
12 RESULTING FROM THE APPLICATION OF ITS LAWN CARE PRODUCTS WITHIN THE
13 STATE.

14 (2) THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (H_3PO_4)
15 RESULTING FROM THE APPLICATION WITHIN THE STATE OF LAWN CARE
16 PRODUCTS SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED BY A MANUFACTURER MAY NOT EXCEED AN
17 AVERAGE OF 1.5% AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID (H_3PO_4) IF, PRIOR TO APRIL
18 1, 2010, THE MANUFACTURER DID NOT SELL OR DISTRIBUTE FERTILIZER IN THE
19 STATE INTENDED FOR USE ON ESTABLISHED LAWNS OR GRASS.

20 (3) BEGINNING IN 2011, A MANUFACTURER OF FERTILIZER
21 WHOSE PRODUCTS ARE SOLD IN THE STATE SHALL REPORT THE POUNDS OF
22 PHOSPHORUS IN ITS LAWN CARE PRODUCTS SOLD AT RETAIL LOCATIONS IN THE
23 STATE TO THE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR.

24 (C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
25 SECTION.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2009.