

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 110

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Agriculture)
and Senator Middleton

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Agriculture - Young Farmers Advisory Board - Membership

This departmental bill expands the membership of the Young Farmers Advisory Board from 12 to 20 members. Of the 8 additional members, 1 must be an officer of the Maryland FFA (Future Farmers of America) Association, 1 must be an urban farmer, and the remaining 6 are appointed from the general public.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$2,800 annually beginning in FY 2017 for expense reimbursements for the additional board members. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

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

Analysis

Current Law: The Young Farmers Advisory Board consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- one from MDA;

- one from the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce (Department of Commerce);
- one from the Forestry Program within the Department of Natural Resources;
- one from the Maryland Farm Bureau; and
- eight from the general public.

To the extent practicable, the Governor must attempt to ensure regional diversity among the members appointed from the general public. Each member from the general public must, among other things, derive at least 50% of the member's personal income from farming or agricultural activities in the State. The term of a member is three years. Members do not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Among other things, the board must (1) communicate to the general public, the federal government, the State government, and Maryland Agricultural Commission the importance of young and beginning farmers to agriculture in the State and (2) identify and address issues relating to young and beginning farmers in the State and make recommendations to the Maryland Agricultural Commission.

Background: MDA indicates that the current board feels it would be valuable to have an urban farmer as well as a State FFA officer sit on the board. The Maryland FFA Association is an affiliate of the National FFA Organization, an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. The current requirement for members from the general public of deriving 50% of their income from farming or agricultural activities hinders appointment of an urban farmer or State FFA officer as members from the general public. MDA also indicates that increasing the number of members appointed from the general public would allow the board to represent a larger diversity of agricultural commodities and geographic areas of the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland FFA Association, National FFA Organization, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2016
min/lgc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Young Farmers Advisory Board

BILL NUMBER: SB 110

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PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON
MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS