

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 400

(Delegate Tarlau, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Agriculture - Mosquito Control - Notification to Municipalities**

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This bill requires the State, a county, or a bicounty agency to provide notification to a municipality of the location and planned date and time of any pesticide spraying to control mosquitos in the municipality at least 24 hours before the State, county, or bicounty agency conducts the spraying. However, if it is determined that spraying a pesticide is necessary to control the outbreak of a virus, contagion, or similar public health threat, notification must instead be provided to the municipality as soon as practicable.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make inspections, investigations, studies, and determinations as deemed advisable in order to ascertain the effect of mosquitoes and methods for their control or elimination in any part of the State. If funds are available, the Secretary may construct and maintain ditches, dikes, dams, and other facilities and may place or spread insecticides or other substances determined desirable or necessary to control or eliminate mosquitoes in any part of the State.

**Background:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) provides mosquito control services, in cooperation with participating county governments. MDA's mosquito

control policy approved in 2016 indicates that the department's preferred mosquito control strategy is the reduction of mosquito larvae numbers by source reduction, biological control agents, or use of biological insecticides. According to the policy, adult mosquito control is also conducted, by ultra-low volume application of insecticide, using aircraft or truck-mounted application equipment in residential areas for nuisance abatement and to protect public health from mosquito-borne disease.

The MDA program conducts mosquito control in communities that request and share the cost of the service, and individuals in those communities can request to have their owned or leased property, and a surrounding buffer, excluded from ground-based ultra-low volume insecticide application. The MDA program also conducts unscheduled spraying activities when necessary to address public health threats from mosquito-borne disease.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2018  
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