

Chapter 178

(House Bill 954)

AN ACT concerning

Agriculture – Commercial Compost – Prohibition on Per Ton Inspection Fee

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Secretary of Agriculture from adopting regulations to establish or impose a per ton inspection fee on commercial compost distributed by a private entity in the State; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to commercial compost distributed in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Agriculture

Section 6–221

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Agriculture

6–221.

(a) The Secretary shall adopt regulations in consultation with the State Department of the Environment to establish product standards for compost intended for commercial use and distribution.

(b) **(1)** The regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

[(1)] (I) Certification requirements for operators of composting facilities;
and

[(2)] (II) A classification scheme for compost.

(2) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT ESTABLISH OR IMPOSE A PER TON INSPECTION FEE ON COMMERCIAL COMPOST DISTRIBUTED BY A PRIVATE ENTITY IN THE STATE.

(c) To the greatest extent practicable, the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall be consistent with applicable national standards and with relevant standards which may have been developed in neighboring states.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.