

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 538

(Senator Carozza, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Land Use - Agritourism - Definition

This bill establishes that the definition of agritourism under § 4-212 of the Land Use Article includes special events and occasions conducted on a farm that generates income from an agricultural activity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: “Agritourism” is defined in § 4-212 of the Land Use Article as an activity conducted on a farm that is offered to a member of the general public or to invited guests for the purpose of education, recreation, or active involvement in the farm operation. “Agritourism” includes farm tours, hayrides, corn mazes, seasonal petting farms, farm museums, guest farms, pumpkin patches, “pick your own” or “cut your own” produce, classes related to agricultural products or skills, and picnic and party facilities offered in conjunction with any agritourism activity.

A local jurisdiction (with the exception of Baltimore City) is authorized, under § 4-212, to adopt the definition of agritourism by local ordinance, resolution, law, or rule.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 673 (Delegate Hartman, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2022
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