



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: February 24, 2021

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 858

SHORT TITLE: Agriculture - Processing of Poultry Litter for Alternative Use

MDA POSITION: Information

Senate Bill 858 establishes new requirements for the processing of poultry litter at “alternative use” facilities and for the product that results from “alternative use” processing.

It is unclear at this time how the new requirements in this bill would impact current “alternative use” facilities, but any limitation to current operations will have an adverse impact on the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) ability to support producers’ needs during the final transition phase of the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). Regulation of the proposed criteria would require that product samples and analyses be submitted for review to the MDA’s State Chemist. The State Chemist is responsible for the registration and regulation of all nutrient materials (including processed poultry litter) that are sold or distributed in the state.

All existing regulations for MDA’s manure transport program would still apply.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.