



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 262

DATE: February 9, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Gallion, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Steven Shofar (steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support with Amendments (Department of Environmental Protection)

Environment – On-Farm Composting Facilities – Permit Exemption

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection supports this bill with some clarifying amendments. The bill will allow farmers to perform on-site composting on 40,000 square feet of area or less. There are presently no significant food scrap composting sites in Montgomery County. Most food scraps are burned as part of the municipal trash waste stream. The County is currently piloting food scrap collection. All the food scraps collected as part of the pilot are taken outside the County for composting. This bill will allow farmers to compost food scraps and other compostable material within the County.

We offer the following suggestions/amendments:

Amend §9-1725 (a) to include a definition for “active composting area”.

Amend §9-1725 (C)(3) to include a statement that an operator cannot place more material on the process pad than can be processed properly.