



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2020 Departmental Bills

House Bill - 161 - Nutrient Management - Professional Fertilizer Applicators - Requirements and Penalties

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program issues turf business license; however, there is no provision in current statute for the department to do that. Turf business licenses are mentioned in regulation, but not in law. This legislation would clarify that and strengthen the department's ability to seek legal action against a business that is found to be out of compliance.

- **Bill hearing:** February 5 at 1:00pm - House Environment and Transportation Committee

Senate Bill 9 - Agriculture - Maryland Egg Law - Revisions

This legislation would revise the standards for control of pathogens in shell (table) eggs to be aligned with current federal law; best practices for reducing contamination of shell eggs with pathogens; and reduce duplicative and/or conflicting regulations for the industry. The legislation would revise the Maryland Egg Law to include standards for quality, quantity, labeling, and wholesomeness for shell eggs produced by poultry other than the domesticated chicken.

- **Bill hearing:** January 16 at 2:30pm - Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Senate Bill 92 - Secretary of Agriculture - Weed Control Law

This legislation adds language to the current statute that allows for the Noxious Weed Program to work with additional entities other than county governments, such as county Soil Conservation Districts. Currently, the statute only speaks of an agreement between the Secretary and a "county;" and makes no reference to a "subdivision of the state."

- **Bill hearing:** January 16 at 2:30pm - Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Senate Bill 118 - Land Use - Alcohol Production and Agricultural Alcohol Production

This legislation authorizes a local jurisdiction to adopt, by local ordinance, resolution, law, or rule on a specific definition of "alcohol production" and "agricultural alcohol production."

In this bill, “alcohol production” means an activity that is:

1. Carried out by a licensed holder as defined in the alcohol beverage article; and
2. Related to manufacturing, packaging, storage, promotion, or sale of alcoholic beverages.

“Agricultural alcohol production” means an activity that is:

1. Carried out by a licensed holder as defined in the alcohol beverage article;
2. Occurs on agricultural land; and
3. Is related to the manufacturing, packaging, storage, promotion, or sale of alcoholic beverages that use ingredients produced on the agricultural land or any associated agricultural land.

- **Bill hearing:** January 16 at 2:30pm - Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee