



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2021 Departmental Bills

SB 344 – Agriculture – Cost-Sharing Program – State Cost-Sharing Funds

This legislation will allow the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to provide up to 100% state funding assistance, currently limited to 87.5%, for the implementation of certain high-priority conservation practices that improve water quality and provide other environmental benefits.

The state of Maryland is obligated to meet the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 2025 and much of the necessary reductions are anticipated to come from the agricultural sector. MDA's ability to provide additional funding assistance will be an important incentive for farmers to install these practices, helping the state reach its WIP goals.

- **Bill Hearing:** Jan. 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. – Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

SB 352 – Agriculture – Multiflora Rose Management – Repeal

This legislation repeals the Maryland Multiflora Rose Management Law. The state's agricultural industry has this plant contained and under control, therefore, the law is no longer needed.

- **Bill Hearing:** Jan. 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. – Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee