

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 72

(Delegate O'Donnell)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Aquaculture Coordinating Council - Reporting Date

This bill alters the date by which the Aquaculture Coordinating Council must formulate and make proposals for advancing Maryland aquaculture from October 1 annually to June 30 annually.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The 17-member Aquaculture Coordinating Council is responsible for guiding the responsible development of the aquaculture industry. The council's duties include:

- formulating and making proposals for advancing Maryland aquaculture to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly by October 1 annually;
- establishing and monitoring a grant program for the implementation of appropriate projects that support the economic health of the State aquaculture industry;
- conducting applied studies of projects and products that will expand the aquaculture industry in the State;

- conducting market tests to determine acceptability and potential demand for new products;
- implementing pilot projects and small demonstrations as appropriate;
- supporting the aquaculture industry in its efforts to implement innovative procedures and to comply with associated regulations;
- enhancing the awareness of innovative aquaculture products and programs among commercial buyers and the general public;
- investigating and enhancing the area of State waters that is available to private lease for purposes related to the aquaculture and seafood industries;
- providing for the establishment of Aquaculture Enterprise Zones in the Chesapeake and Coastal bays; and
- reviewing State regulations impacting aquaculture and making recommendations to the Aquaculture Review Board.

The Department of Natural Resources advises that changing the annual reporting deadline will help ensure that the council's recommendations are available prior to budget and legislative policy decisionmaking.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 21 (Senator Klausmeier) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 14, 2013
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