

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1388 (Delegate Haddaway-Riccio)
Environmental Matters

Honey - License Exemptions

This bill alters the definition of “raw agricultural product” to include honey and herb mixtures and flavored honey. In addition, the bill exempts a person that manufactures, processes, and sells honey and herb mixtures or flavored honey from the requirement to obtain an on-farm home processing facility license or permit.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Both the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) indicate that they do not currently inspect or license manufacturers of honey. Thus, the bill does not directly affect governmental finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: “Raw agricultural product” includes whole, unprocessed grains, flowers, herbs, nuts, fruits, and vegetables supplied directly from the farm on which they were produced (as well as any agricultural products identified in regulation). A local jurisdiction may not require a license for the sale of raw agricultural products at a farmer’s market or at a public festival or event.

A license from DHMH is required for on-farm home processing only if sales from food production exceed \$40,000. The license fee for on-farm food processing is \$30 annually.

However, food processing plants that are inspected by MDA are not required to be licensed by DHMH.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1026 (Senator Colburn) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2013
mm/ljm

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