

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 51 (Delegate O'Donnell)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Natural Resources - Aquaculture Coordinating Council - Membership**

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This bill adds two members to the Aquaculture Coordinating Council – one representative of the Oyster Recovery Partnership, designated by the Oyster Recovery Partnership, and one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau, designated by the Maryland Farm Bureau.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for the two additional council members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The Aquaculture Coordinating Council, which is housed within the Department of Natural Resources, has various statutory responsibilities relating to supporting aquaculture in the State, including formulating and making annual proposals to the Governor and General Assembly for advancing Maryland aquaculture. The council consists of General Assembly members, State agency representatives, industry representatives, and academic/research representatives. There are 17 members on the council. The members do not receive a salary but are reimbursed for expenses, as provided under the standard State travel regulations.

The Oyster Recovery Partnership is a nonprofit organization that plans, promotes, and implements science-based and sustainable shellfish restoration, aquaculture, and wild fishery activities. The Maryland Farm Bureau is a nonprofit organization focused on increasing farm income and quality of life by serving as a legislative and public voice on behalf of its members.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 51 (Senator Klausmeier) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Oyster Recovery Partnership, Maryland Farm Bureau, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 21, 2016  
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