

HOUSE BILL 50

M4

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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate G. Clagett**

Requested: November 12, 2009

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2010

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2010

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture – ~~Specialty Fertilizers~~ Lawn Fertilizer – Low Phosphorous**
3 **Fertilizer**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the threshold for the phosphoric acid content of lawn
5 fertilizers to which certain prohibitions and requirements apply; altering a
6 certain applicability date; providing for a certain exception until a certain date;
7 altering a certain definition; and generally relating to the regulation of low
8 phosphorous fertilizer.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Agriculture
11 Section 6–201(p) and 6–210(e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Agriculture**

17 6–201.

18 (p) “Low phosphorous fertilizer” means fertilizer:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (1) Containing not more than ~~[5%]~~ **0.5%** of available phosphoric acid
2 (H_3PO_4); and

3 (2) That has an application rate not to exceed 0.25 pound of available
4 phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4)/1,000 square feet/application and 0.5 pound of available
5 phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4)/1,000 square feet/year.

6 6–210.

7 (e) (1) Except as provided in ~~paragraph~~ **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this
8 subsection, on or after April 1, ~~2011~~ **2012**, a lawn fertilizer with an available
9 phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4) content greater than ~~[5%]~~ **0.5%**:

10 (i) May not be labeled for use on established lawns or grass;

11 (ii) May not be labeled with spreader settings; and

12 (iii) Shall be marked with the words “NOT FOR USE ON
13 ESTABLISHED LAWNS OR GRASS” in at least a three–quarter inch font and in a
14 legible and conspicuous manner on the front side of the container.

15 **(2) ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 2014, THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO A**
16 **LAWN FERTILIZER WITH ORGANIC PHOSPHOROUS MATERIALS.**

17 ~~(2)~~ **(3)** This subsection does not apply to seed starter fertilizer for use on
18 newly established lawns or turf.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2010.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.