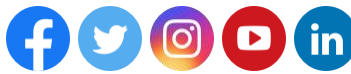




www.marylandfb.org | Contact: [Colby Ferguson](#) or [Pat Wolff](#)



Hotline #7

March 3, 2023

Welcome to the seventh Hotline of the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session. With us in the middle of bill hearing bonanza this week, Maryland Farm Bureau along with our ag stakeholders testified on several key bills like the Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup, the bill to ban cages in egg laying operations along with also opposing the bill to remove biomass programs from the Tier 1 renewables list. Next week looks to be another long bill hearing week as this will be the last full week of hearings before the committee turn their focus to sub-committee meetings and full committee voting sessions to hopefully meet the bill crossover deadline of March 20.

The Hotline will be posted on the [MDFB website](#) each week. Maryland Farm Bureau members are urged to contact their legislators and members of relevant committees in support of Maryland Farm Bureau's positions. Visit Maryland Farm Bureau's [action center](#) to stay up to date on pending legislation on which we have position.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

SB866: Special Vehicle Registration Plates - Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation - Appropriation

Senator Zucker, B&T at 1:00 PM

This bill requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill beginning in fiscal year 2025 an appropriation for the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. that is calculated based on the amount of revenue lost if/when special vehicle registration plates are created. Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF) receives funding from the sale and registration of the ag tags. The Chesapeake Bay Trust also receives funding from the bay tag. Currently, these are the only two special vehicle registration plates. If there were to be more plates created, the fund source would go down because of the added type of plates. This bill

seeks to make sure MAEF and CBT receive level funding if their revenue from the plate sales goes down.

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Wednesday, March 8, 2023

SB155: Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

Senator Jackson, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow, in Prince George's County, a person to hunt deer on each Sunday of the deer hunting seasons from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January, inclusive. The bill also decreases the archery hunting safety zone in Prince George's County from 150 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

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SB323: Calvert County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions

Calvert County Senators, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill repeals the 10:30 AM restriction during which a person must be out of the woods when hunting on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Calvert County. The Sunday hunting bill passed in 2022 with the 10:30 AM restriction.

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SB777: Middle Shore Counties - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions

Senator Mautz, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill repeals the 10:30 AM restriction during which a person must be out of the woods when hunting on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Caroline County, Dorchester County, Talbot County, and Wicomico County. The Sunday hunting bill passed in 2022 with the 10:30 AM restriction.

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SB779: Natural Resources - Female Deer Hunting Contests - Authorization

Senator Mautz, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person, for the management of the deer population in the state, to sponsor, conduct, or participate in an existing, random contest in the state held during the month of January that has the objective of harvesting a female deer.

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SB796: Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

Senator Carozza, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt game birds and mammals on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Wicomico County. It also authorizes the Department to allow Sunday hunting in Wicomico County on public land designated for hunting by the department and adds Wicomico County to the list of counties in which the safety zone for archery hunters is 50 yards.

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SB824: Worcester County - Natural Resources - Hunting

Senator Carozza, EEE at 1:00 PM

This bill adds Worcester County to a list of counties in the state that would allow all day Sunday hunting for both game birds and game mammals during the allowed hunting seasons in the county. It also reduces the archery safety zone from 150 yards to 50 yards.

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HB1087: Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones

Wicomico County Delegation, E&T at 1:00 PM

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt game birds and mammals on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Wicomico County. It also authorizes the department to allow Sunday hunting in Wicomico County on public

land designated for hunting by the Department and adds Wicomico County to the list of counties in which the safety zone for archery hunters is 50 yards.

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Thursday, March 9, 2023

SB516: Cannabis Reform

Senator Feldman, B&T at 1:00 PM

This omnibus cannabis reform bill does several things. It renames the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to be the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission. It establishes a regulatory and licensing system for adult-use cannabis and imposes the sales and use tax on the sale of adult-use cannabis. The bill establishes the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Division in the Commission and requires the Division, on or before July 1, 2023, to convert medical cannabis licenses to licenses to operate a medical and adult-use cannabis business. Lastly and most importantly as it relates to agriculture, the bill amends the hemp industry language to further restrict the CBD side of the hemp industry to a point where one would need to have a cannabis license to participate in the CBD side of the Hemp industry. Thus, killing the federally legal hemp industry to allow the federally illegal cannabis industry to monopolize the entire market.

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HB718: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

Delegate Stewart, ECM at 1:00 PM

This bill alters the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" for purposes of excluding energy derived from qualifying biomass, methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials, fuel cells, poultry litter-to-energy, waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, and thermal energy from a thermal biomass system from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

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Committees & Room Numbers:

Senate: Budget & Taxation (B&T), 3 West Miller; Education, Energy and the Environment (EEE), 2 West Miller; Finance (FIN), 3 East Miller; Judicial Proceedings (JPR), 2 East Miller

House: Appropriations (APP), 120 HOB; Economic Matters (ECM), 230 HOB; Environment & Transportation (E&T), 250 HOB; Health & Government Operations (HGO), 240 HOB; Judiciary (JUD), 100 HOB; Ways & Means (W&M) 130 HOB

In Other Ag News

ACTION ALERT: Protect farmers and ranchers from SEC rules and regulations



As you know, the SEC has proposed making public companies provide certain climate-related information in their financial statements.

Your 3,500 comments to the SEC and 7,000 emails to House and Senate lawmakers in 2022 made a difference!

This Congress, Senator John Boozman from Arkansas and Congressman Frank Lucas from Oklahoma have again introduced their bills S. 391 and H.R. 1018, the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act. [Take action!](#)

PFAS in Biosolids Regulatory Update

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will withhold the final authorization of new permit applications to land-apply sewage sludge as the agency continues to evaluate levels of a class of chemical compounds known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in biosolids produced by wastewater treatment plants in the state. [More here.](#)
