

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 7-209(a) and 7-412(a) of Article - Agriculture, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article - Agriculture

7-209.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c), a person may not engage in any of the following businesses without first obtaining an annual license upon payment of the prescribed fee:

BUSINESS	NAME OF LICENSE	FEE
(1) Commission selling agency	Commission selling agency	[\$350] \$525
(2) Transfer buyer	Transfer buyer's license	[\$200] \$300
(3) Purchaser of leaf tobacco from a commission selling agency	Sales floor buyer's license	[\$200] \$300
(4) Agent for sales floor buyer's license	Sales floor buyer's agent's license	[\$ 10] \$ 15
(5) Seller of leaf tobacco on warehouse floor of any warehouse	Sales floor seller's license	[\$200] \$300

7-412.

(a) Every commission selling agency shall collect from the owner or seller of tobacco sold on its sales floor, a fee not exceeding the rate of [10 cents per basket or 75 cents per hogshead] 1/10 OF 1 CENT PER POUND. At any time less than 60 days prior to the opening of the selling season, the authority may establish a lower rate for that one season in consideration of its need for funds in the next fiscal year, or other potentially available revenues, and funds the State Comptroller holds on its account. Any lower rate shall be at a level sufficient to keep the special fund at an adequate level to meet requirements of this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.