

Section 10-1407

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

Article - Agriculture

10-1401.

The Department shall establish a certification program governing [organically produced commodities] **THE PRODUCTION AND HANDLING OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.**

10-1402.

The Department shall adopt regulations creating a program [under which products may be certified and labeled as organically produced commodities that are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle] **THAT MEETS THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION ACT, 7 U.S.C. § 6501 ET SEQ.**

10-1403.

The Department may:

(1) ~~Issue permits to~~ **CERTIFY** producers[, processors,] or [distributors] **HANDLERS** who apply for certification under the Department's organic [commodity] **CERTIFICATION** program;

(2) Establish requirements governing the production[, processing,] or [distribution] **HANDLING** of commodities that are certified by ~~the~~ **THE** Department as organically produced; ~~A FEDERALLY ACCREDITED ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY;~~

(3) Adopt logos for organically produced commodities that are certified by the Department; and

(4) Deny, suspend, or revoke the ~~permit~~ **LOGO OR CERTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT** of any producer[, processor,] or [distributor] **HANDLER** who violates any regulations adopted [by the Department] under this subtitle.

10-1406.

[(a) (1) An applicant for initial certification as a producer under this subtitle shall pay to the Department a deposit of \$300 to be applied to costs of inspection and testing. The deposit includes an application fee of \$150.

(2) If an applicant for initial certification as a producer is rejected by the Department or withdraws the application, the deposit required in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be refunded to the applicant by the Department, less the cost of administration, inspection, and testing conducted by the Department.