

industry. To the extent possible, the University System shall coordinate its efforts with research projects conducted by the agricultural industry.

SECTION 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of Agriculture shall provide written notice to farmers concerning the requirements of this Act and explaining the State financial and technical assistance that is available to assist farmers in complying with the requirements of the Act.

SECTION 15. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That under the provisions of § 7-209(e)(2)(iv) of the State Finance and Procurement Article for fiscal year 1999 only, appropriations and positions may be transferred between the Departments of Agriculture, Business and Economic Development, and the Environment to carry out the intent of this legislation.

SECTION 8, ~~12~~, 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

Approved May 12, 1998.

CHAPTER 325

(House Bill 599)

AN ACT concerning

Nutrient Management Practices Improvement Act of 1998 **Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998**

~~FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations relating to certain cost share programs; establishing certain limits for certain cost share programs; authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations; making certain findings; requiring the Governor to provide sufficient funding to maintain a certain level of field personnel soil for conservation districts; authorizing the Department of Agriculture, by regulation, to authorize the disbursement of certain cost sharing funds for poultry manure storage facilities; providing for a poultry litter matching service; establishing a Poultry Litter Transportation Pilot Project; requiring, by certain dates, a person that operates a farm to operate the farm under certain nutrient management plans under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations to provide certain exemptions from certain requirements; establishing certain administrative penalties for certain violations; providing for the refund of certain administrative penalties under certain circumstances; requiring nutrient management plans to be developed considering certain factors; requiring nutrient management plans to be filed and maintained under certain circumstances; establishing certain requirements for the certification of nutrient management consultants; establishing certain requirements for certain individuals receiving certain vouchers of completion from the Department of Agriculture; requiring certain individuals to make available certain documents under certain circumstances; establishing certain~~