

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:

(1) FOR A 4-YEAR PERIOD THE STATE AND THE COMMERCIAL POULTRY PRODUCERS SHALL FACILITATE THE PROMPT TRANSPORTATION OF POULTRY LITTER FROM FARMS IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE THAT EXPERIENCE PHOSPHORUS OVERENRICHMENT;

(2) THE PILOT PROJECT SHALL ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION TO ACHIEVE THE REMOVAL OF POULTRY LITTER PRODUCED BY AT LEAST 20% OF THE POULTRY IN THE FOUR LOWER EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES IN MARYLAND; AND

(3) THE PILOT PROJECT SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POULTRY LITTER MATCHING SERVICE SET FORTH IN § 8-704.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROJECT IS TO ESTABLISH A COST-SHARE MATCHING PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF POULTRY LITTER FROM FARMS OVER A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS:

(1) TO BE USED ON LAND WITH SOIL HAVING THE CAPACITY TO HOLD ADDITIONAL PHOSPHORUS; OR

(2) TO BE USED IN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE WAYS OTHER THAN LAND APPLICATION.

(D) THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PILOT PROJECT BY MATCHING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY THE COMMERCIAL POULTRY PRODUCER INDUSTRY FOR ELIGIBLE COSTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORTATION, AND HANDLING, AND APPLICATION OF POULTRY LITTER. LITTER THE STATE SHARE MAY NOT TO EXCEED \$10 PER TON.

~~(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA TO ESTABLISH AND PRIORITIZE ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDING:~~

~~(1) THE EXISTING AVAILABILITY OF ACREAGE ON LANDS WHERE THE LITTER IS GENERATED;~~

~~(2) SOIL NUTRIENT LEVELS OF ACREAGE RECEIVING MANURE;~~

~~(3) ON THE LANDS WHERE THE LITTER IS GENERATED, THE OPERATOR'S ABILITY TO COMPLY AS APPLICABLE WITH EITHER A NITROGEN OR PHOSPHORUS BASED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND~~

~~(4) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON RECEIVING ACREAGE.~~

~~(F)~~ (E) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF COST-SHARE MATCHING FUNDS CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

~~(G)~~ (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT POULTRY LITTER IS TESTED IN