

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **The Speaker and Delegates McIntosh, Conway, and Hixson**

Requested: November 15, 2005

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters and Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying that certain funds received by the Maryland  
4 Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation may be  
5 used for rural business development and assistance; authorizing the Governor  
6 to appropriate certain funds to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based  
7 Industry Development Corporation for certain easement and land acquisition  
8 programs; requiring counties to include a priority preservation area element in  
9 each county's comprehensive plan; requiring a priority preservation area to  
10 meet certain criteria; requiring a certain acreage goal in a priority preservation  
11 area; requiring an update of a county's comprehensive plan to include a certain  
12 evaluation relating to priority preservation areas; requiring the Department of  
13 Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to  
14 certify priority preservation areas jointly; establishing a University of Maryland  
15 Agricultural Internship Program at the University of Maryland, College Park;  
16 providing that the internship is unpaid; requiring the Department of  
17 Agriculture to adopt certain regulations; establishing a program for certification  
18 of a county's priority preservation areas; establishing the application and  
19 notification processes for certification of priority preservation areas; prohibiting  
20 the certification for priority preservation areas unless the Department of  
21 Planning and the Foundation agree that certain criteria are satisfied; specifying  
22 eligibility for certain State funding; requiring the Department of Planning and  
23 the Foundation to adopt certain regulations by a certain date; requiring the  
24 Department of Planning and the Foundation to make a certain report; defining  
25 certain terms; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor  
26 make certain appropriations to the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost  
27 Share Program, the Cover Crop Program, the Manure Transport Program, the  
28 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, the Maryland  
29 Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, the  
30 Maryland Cooperative Extension, and certain State Soil Conservation Districts  
31 under certain circumstances; encouraging the Department of Agriculture to  
32 modify the Cover Crop Program for the harvest of certain cover crops for biofuel  
33 production; supporting the promotion of agricultural education in the State;  
34 requiring the University System of Maryland to conduct certain research;

1 requiring certain agencies to report to certain legislative committees on the  
2 effectiveness of certain increases in funding after a certain period of time;  
3 establishing an Incentives for Agriculture Task Force; providing for the  
4 membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to review  
5 certain reports and incentives; requiring the Task Force to identify new  
6 incentives for farmers; requiring the Task Force to make a certain report; and  
7 generally relating to agricultural stewardship in the State.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
10 Section 13-513(c)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article 66B - Land Use  
15 Section 1.03(a) and 3.05(a)(4)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article 66B - Land Use  
20 Section 3.05(a)(1)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

23 BY adding to  
24 Article - Agriculture  
25 Section 2-518  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

28 BY adding to  
29 Article - Education  
30 Section 12-115  
31 Annotated Code of Maryland  
32 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

33 BY adding to  
34 Article - State Finance and Procurement  
35 Section 5-409  
36 Annotated Code of Maryland  
37 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 13-513.

5 (c) (1) The Corporation may receive annual funding through an  
6 appropriation in the State budget.

7 (2) The Corporation may also receive funds for projects included in the  
8 budgets of State units.

9 (3) All unexpended and unencumbered funds appropriated to the  
10 Corporation shall remain with the Corporation for future uses.

11 (4) The Corporation shall conduct its financial affairs in such a manner  
12 that, by the year 2020, it shall be self-sufficient and in no further need of general  
13 operating support by the State.

14 (5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in order to assist  
15 the Corporation in meeting the requirement specified in paragraph (4) of this  
16 subsection, the Governor may include each year in the budget bill an appropriation to  
17 the Corporation in an amount up to \$5,000,000 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
18 AND ASSISTANCE.

19 (ii) If the State has provided a combined and cumulative total of  
20 \$12,000,000 or less in fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2010 to the Corporation  
21 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE, the Governor may include  
22 each year in the budget bill an appropriation to the Corporation in an amount up to  
23 \$6,500,000 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE.

24 (III) IN ADDITION TO ANY FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER  
25 SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE  
26 EACH YEAR IN THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CORPORATION IN AN  
27 AMOUNT UP TO \$5,000,000 FOR RURAL ACQUISITION AND EASEMENT PROGRAMS,  
28 INCLUDING PROGRAMS TO ASSIST YOUNG AND BEGINNING FARMERS.

29 **Article 66B - Land Use**

30 1.03.

31 (a) (1) When developing a comprehensive plan for a charter county, a  
32 planning commission shall include:

33 (i) A transportation plan element which shall:

34 1. Propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for  
35 the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for

1 transportation facilities, and for the circulation of persons and goods on a schedule  
 2 that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;

3 2. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian access and travelways;  
 4 and

5 3. Include an estimate of the probable utilization of any  
 6 proposed improvement;

7 (ii) If current geological information is available, a mineral  
 8 resources plan element that:

9 1. Identifies undeveloped land that should be kept in its  
 10 undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a  
 11 continuous supply of minerals, as defined in § 15-801(i) of the Environment Article;

12 2. Identifies appropriate postexcavation uses for the land  
 13 that are consistent with the county's land planning process;

14 3. Incorporates land use policies and recommendations for  
 15 regulations:

16 A. To balance mineral resource extraction with other land  
 17 uses; and

18 B. To the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of  
 19 mineral resources extraction by other uses; and

20 4. Has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment  
 21 to determine whether the proposed comprehensive plan is consistent with the  
 22 programs and goals of the Department;

23 (iii) An element which contains the planning commission's  
 24 recommendation for land development regulations to implement the comprehensive  
 25 plan and which encourages:

26 1. Streamlined review of applications for development,  
 27 including permit review and subdivision plat review within the areas designated for  
 28 growth in the comprehensive plan;

29 2. The use of flexible development regulations to promote  
 30 innovative and cost-saving site design and protect the environment; and

31 3. Economic development in areas designated for growth in  
 32 the comprehensive plan through the use of innovative techniques; [and]

33 (iv) A sensitive areas element that contains goals, objectives,  
 34 principles, policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the  
 35 adverse effects of development; AND

1 (V) A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT THAT IS  
2 DEVELOPED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

3 (2) The channels, routes, travelways, and terminals required under  
4 paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection may include all types of highways or streets, bicycle  
5 ways, sidewalks, railways, waterways, airways, routings for mass transit, and  
6 terminals for people, goods, and vehicles related to highways, airways, waterways,  
7 and railways.

8 (3) The mineral resources plan element required under paragraph (1)(ii)  
9 of this subsection shall be incorporated in:

10 (i) Any new comprehensive plan adopted after July 1, 1986 for all  
11 or any part of a jurisdiction; and

12 (ii) Any amendment or addition that is adopted after July 1, 1986  
13 to a comprehensive plan that was in effect on July 1, 1985.

14 3.05.

15 (a) (1) A planning commission shall make and approve a plan which the  
16 commission shall recommend to the local legislative body for adoption.

17 (4) The plan shall contain at a minimum the following elements:

18 (i) A statement of goals and objectives, principles, policies, and  
19 standards, which shall serve as a guide for the development and economic and social  
20 well-being of the local jurisdiction;

21 (ii) A land use plan element, which:

22 1. Shall propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns  
23 for the general location, character, extent, and interrelationship of the uses of public  
24 and private land, on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;  
25 and

26 2. May include public and private, residential, commercial,  
27 industrial, agricultural, and recreational land uses;

28 (iii) A transportation plan element which shall:

29 1. Propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for  
30 the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for  
31 transportation facilities, and for the circulation of persons and goods on a schedule  
32 that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;

33 2. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian access and travelways;  
34 and

35 3. Include an estimate of the probable utilization of any  
36 proposed improvement;

- 1 (iv) A community facilities plan element, which:
- 2 1. Shall propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns  
3 for the general location, character, and extent of public and semipublic buildings,  
4 land, and facilities on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;  
5 and
- 6 2. May include parks and recreation areas, schools and other  
7 educational and cultural facilities, libraries, churches, hospitals, social welfare and  
8 medical facilities, institutions, fire stations, police stations, jails, or other public office  
9 or administrative facilities;
- 10 (v) If current geological information is available, a mineral  
11 resources plan element that:
- 12 1. Identifies undeveloped land that should be kept in its  
13 undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a  
14 continuous supply of minerals, as defined in § 15-801(i) of the Environment Article;
- 15 2. Identifies appropriate post-excavation uses for the land  
16 that are consistent with the county's land planning process;
- 17 3. Incorporates land use policies and recommendations for  
18 regulations:
- 19 A. To balance mineral resource extraction with other land  
20 uses; and
- 21 B. To the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of  
22 mineral resources extraction by other uses; and
- 23 4. Has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment  
24 to determine whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of  
25 the Department;
- 26 (vi) An element which shall contain the planning commission's  
27 recommendation for land development regulations to implement the plan and which  
28 encourages the following:
- 29 1. Streamlined review of applications for development,  
30 including permit review and subdivision plat review within the areas designated for  
31 growth in the plan;
- 32 2. The use of flexible development regulations to promote  
33 innovative and cost-saving site design and protect the environment; and
- 34 3. Economic development in areas designated for growth in  
35 the plan through the use of innovative techniques;

1 (vii) Recommendations for the determination, identification, and  
2 designation of areas within the county that are of critical State concern; [and]

3 (viii) A sensitive area element that contains goals, objectives,  
4 principles, policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the  
5 adverse effects of development; AND

6 (IX) A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT THAT IS  
7 DEVELOPED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

8 **Article - Agriculture**

9 2-518.

10 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "AREA" MEANS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

11 (B) A COUNTY SHALL INCLUDE A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT IN  
12 THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

13 (C) AN AREA SHALL:

14 (1) (I) CONTAIN PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST SOILS; OR

15 (II) BE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL  
16 AND FORESTRY ENTERPRISES WHERE PRODUCTIVE SOILS ARE LACKING;

17 (2) BE GOVERNED BY LOCAL POLICIES THAT STABILIZE THE  
18 AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND BASE SO THAT DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT  
19 CONVERT OR COMPROMISE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST RESOURCES; AND

20 (3) BE LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE KIND OF AGRICULTURAL  
21 OPERATIONS THAT THE COUNTY SEEKS TO PRESERVE, AS REPRESENTED IN ITS  
22 ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

23 (D) AN AREA MAY:

24 (1) CONSIST OF A SINGLE PARCEL OF LAND, MULTIPLE CONNECTED  
25 PARCELS OF LAND, OR MULTIPLE UNCONNECTED PARCELS OF LAND; AND

26 (2) INCLUDE RURAL LEGACY AREAS.

27 (E) A COUNTY'S ACREAGE GOAL FOR LAND TO BE PRESERVED THROUGH  
28 EASEMENTS AND ZONING WITHIN AN AREA SHALL BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST 80% OF  
29 THE REMAINING UNDEVELOPED AREAS OF LAND IN THE AREA, AS CALCULATED AT  
30 THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR STATE CERTIFICATION OF AN AREA.

31 (F) EACH TIME A COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS UPDATED, THE UPDATE  
32 SHALL INCLUDE AN EVALUATION OF:

33 (1) THE COUNTY'S PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS OF THE  
34 FOUNDATION;

1 (2) ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN THE COUNTY'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THE  
2 GOALS OF THE FOUNDATION; AND

3 (3) PAST, CURRENT, AND PLANNED ACTIONS TO CORRECT ANY  
4 IDENTIFIED SHORTCOMINGS.

5 (G) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-409 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND  
6 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE AND ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY  
7 OF THAT SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND THE MARYLAND  
8 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION SHALL JOINTLY CERTIFY AN  
9 AREA.

10 **Article - Education**

11 12-115.

12 (A) THERE IS A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIP  
13 PROGRAM.

14 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
15 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS TO:

16 (1) PROVIDE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND  
17 NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK WITH AT  
18 LEAST ONE SEMESTER OF HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WORKING ON A FARM IN THE  
19 STATE;

20 (2) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN THE STATE; AND

21 (3) PROMOTE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE.

22 (C) THE INTERNSHIP SHALL BE UNPAID.

23 (D) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK OR THE DEAN OF THE  
24 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
25 MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
26 AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

27 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

28 5-409.

29 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FOUNDATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
30 LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-502 OF THE  
31 AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

32 (B) THERE IS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A PROGRAM FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
33 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE  
34 ARTICLE.



1 (C) (1) TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION, A COUNTY  
2 SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AN APPLICATION IN  
3 THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY REQUIRE BY  
4 REGULATION.

5 (2) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR  
6 CERTIFICATION, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION SHALL JOINTLY NOTIFY  
7 THE COUNTY AS TO WHETHER THE COUNTY'S APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED.

8 (D) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION MAY NOT CERTIFY A PRIORITY  
9 PRESERVATION AREA OF A COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
10 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AGREE THAT THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE  
11 PLAN:

12 (1) ESTABLISHES APPROPRIATE GOALS FOR THE AMOUNT AND TYPES  
13 OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE LAND TO BE PRESERVED IN THE PRIORITY  
14 PRESERVATION AREA;

15 (2) DESCRIBES THE KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THE  
16 COUNTY INTENDS TO SUPPORT AND THE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT THE COUNTY  
17 INTENDS TO ALLOW;

18 (3) INCLUDES MAPS SHOWING THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION  
19 AREA;

20 (4) DESCRIBES THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA IN THE CONTEXT OF  
21 THE COUNTY'S GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANS;

22 (5) DESCRIBES THE WAY IN WHICH PRESERVATION GOALS WILL BE  
23 ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, INCLUDING THE COUNTY'S  
24 STRATEGY TO:

25 (I) PROTECT LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ZONING;

26 (II) PRESERVE THE DESIRED AMOUNT OF LAND WITH PERMANENT  
27 EASEMENTS; AND

28 (III) MAINTAIN A RURAL ENVIRONMENT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING  
29 THE KIND OF PRODUCTION INTENDED;

30 (6) INCLUDES AN EVALUATION OF THE ABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S  
31 ZONING AND OTHER LAND USE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO:

32 (I) LIMIT THE IMPACT OF SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT;

33 (II) ALLOW TIME FOR EASEMENT PURCHASE; AND

34 (III) ACHIEVE EACH OF THE FOUNDATION'S GOALS BEFORE THE  
35 GOALS ARE IRREPARABLY UNDERMINED OR IMPAIRED BY DEVELOPMENT;

1 (7) IDENTIFIES SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ABILITIES OF THE COUNTY'S  
2 ZONING AND LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND IDENTIFIES CURRENT OR  
3 FUTURE ACTIONS TO CORRECT THE SHORTCOMINGS; AND

4 (8) DESCRIBES THE METHODS THE COUNTY WILL USE TO  
5 CONCENTRATE PRESERVATION FUNDS AND OTHER SUPPORTING EFFORTS IN THE  
6 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE FOUNDATION AND  
7 THE COUNTY'S ACREAGE PRESERVATION GOAL.

8 (E) IN CERTIFYING A COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, THE  
9 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION SHALL ENSURE THAT:

10 (1) THE COUNTY HAS INCLUDED ALL THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY  
11 SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND

12 (2) THE SIZE OF THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA IS  
13 APPROPRIATE IN RELATION TO THE COUNTY'S ACREAGE PRESERVATION GOAL.

14 (F) IF A COUNTY HAS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA THAT HAS BEEN  
15 CERTIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE  
16 FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENTS  
17 WITHIN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

18 (G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2006, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE  
19 FOUNDATION JOINTLY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
20 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

21 (H) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,  
22 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY SHALL REPORT ON THE  
23 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BY JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR TO:

24 (1) THE GOVERNOR;

25 (2) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING;

26 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE;

27 (4) THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
28 COMMITTEE; AND

29 (5) THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
31 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
32 additional \$7,000,000 per year for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost  
33 Share Program for 5 consecutive fiscal years, for a total increase of \$35,000,000 over  
34 the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation. It is also the intent of the General Assembly  
35 that the increased level of funding be continued in future fiscal years.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
2 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
3 additional \$3,000,000 annually in general funds for the Cover Crop Program within  
4 the Department of Agriculture, over and above any funding received from the  
5 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, until a total of at least \$14,000,000 is  
6 appropriated to the Program on an annual basis. It is the intent of the General  
7 Assembly that any funds appropriated to the Cover Crop Program that are not used  
8 in any given fiscal year not revert back to the general fund. It is also the intent of the  
9 General Assembly that the Department of Agriculture modify the Cover Crop  
10 Program to allow farmers to harvest small grains for biofuels; participants that  
11 harvest such crops should receive a reduced cost share payment per acre. The General  
12 Assembly encourages the development of a biofuels industry in the State and  
13 encourages the State to ensure that sufficient grains are available to support the  
14 operation of biofuels plants.

15 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
16 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor increase  
17 State funding for the Manure Transport Program within the Department of  
18 Agriculture until State funding reaches the level of \$750,000 annually.

19 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
20 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide  
21 \$20,000,000 annually in general funds for the Maryland Agricultural Land  
22 Preservation Foundation over and above any other funding the Foundation receives  
23 from other sources. Additionally, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the  
24 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation be permitted to use this  
25 additional funding for its existing easement acquisition program, the Critical Farms  
26 Program, a Priority Preservation Areas Program, or an installment purchase  
27 agreement program. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that any funding  
28 not used in a given fiscal year not revert back to the general fund.

29 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
30 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide  
31 \$5,000,000 in annual funding to capitalize the Maryland Agricultural and  
32 Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation's loan programs. It is also the  
33 intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide \$5,000,000 annually for 2  
34 consecutive fiscal years for the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry  
35 Development Corporation to develop a Next Generation Farmland Acquisition  
36 Program.

37 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
38 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
39 additional \$2,000,000 in annual funding over the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation  
40 for the Maryland Cooperative Extension at the University of Maryland. It is the  
41 intent of the General Assembly that this funding be used to support additional staff to  
42 provide enhanced technical assistance on best management practices to farmers and  
43 to reestablish a soil testing laboratory in the State. It is also the intent of the General  
44 Assembly that the funding for the Maryland Cooperative Extension not be reduced by  
45 the University of Maryland.

1 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
2 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
3 additional \$2,500,000 in annual funding over the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation  
4 for the 23 Soil Conservation Districts in the State to increase staffing levels to 110  
5 field personnel.

6 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
7 strongly supports the promotion of agricultural education throughout the State. The  
8 General Assembly encourages the University of Maryland, College Park to provide a  
9 greater focus on agriculture and extension education, and to establish a unique major  
10 in this area.

11 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the University System  
12 of Maryland shall use existing budgeted resources to conduct research to:

13 (a) Develop poultry feeds that reduce the amount of ammonia in chicken  
14 excreta;

15 (b) Improve poultry litter use in no-till cropping practices;

16 (c) Determine how much poultry litter is produced and how much can be  
17 land-applied in an environmentally sensitive manner; and

18 (d) Find alternative uses for excess poultry litter.

19 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any of the programs  
20 under this Act receive an increase in funding in accordance with the provisions of this  
21 Act, the affected agencies shall report to the House Appropriations Committee, the  
22 House Environmental Matters Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation  
23 Committee, and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
24 after 3 consecutive fiscal years of increased funding, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
25 the State Government Article, on the impact of such increased funding on the  
26 effectiveness of the programs.

27 SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

28 (a) There is an Incentives for Agriculture Task Force.

29 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

30 (1) one member of the House Ways and Means Committee, appointed by  
31 the Speaker of the House;

32 (2) one member of the House Environmental Matters Committee,  
33 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

34 (3) one member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,  
35 appointed by the President of the Senate;

1 (4) one member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental  
2 Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

3 (5) the following seven members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) one representative of the Department of Agriculture;

5 (ii) one representative of the Comptroller's Office;

6 (iii) one representative from the Rural Maryland Council;

7 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

8 (v) one representative from agri-business;

9 (vi) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Maryland  
10 Agricultural Commission; and

11 (vii) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Young  
12 Farmer's Advisory Board.

13 (c) From among its members, the Task Force shall elect a chair of the Task  
14 Force.

15 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task  
16 Force.

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) review the final recommendations and report of the Agricultural  
23 Stewardship Commission released in January 2006;

24 (2) study existing tax incentives related to farming; and

25 (3) identify any new or additional tax incentives that would help farmers  
26 to be better stewards of the land while maintaining the economic viability of farming  
27 in the State.

28 (g) On or before December 1, 2006, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
29 recommendations to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the House  
30 Ways and Means Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, the  
31 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Education, Health, and  
32 Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Governor, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
33 the State Government Article.

1 SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 2006.