
By: **Delegate Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Contract**
3 **Purchasers**

4 FOR the purpose of allowing a contract purchaser of land, with the written approval
5 of the landowner, to file a petition requesting the establishment of an
6 agricultural district with the county governing body; allowing a contract
7 purchaser of land, to offer by written application and with the written approval
8 of the landowner, to sell an easement to the Foundation on certain agricultural
9 land; providing that the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
10 shall notify all contract purchasers whose applications had been rejected during
11 that fiscal year and the reasons for the rejection; prohibiting a certain contract
12 purchaser whose application has been rejected from reapplying to sell an
13 easement on the same land on the same terms until a certain time; and
14 generally relating to contract purchasers and the Maryland Agricultural Land
15 Preservation Foundation.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article - Agriculture
18 Section 2-509(b)(1) and 2-510(a) and (l)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1985 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

23 **Article - Agriculture**

24 2-509.

25 (b) Regulations and procedures adopted by the Foundation for the
26 establishment and monitoring of agricultural districts shall provide that:

27 (1) (I) One or more owners of land actively devoted to agricultural use
28 may file a petition with the county governing body requesting the establishment of an

1 agricultural district composed of the land owned by the petitioners. The petition shall
2 include maps and descriptions of the current use of land in the proposed district.

3 (II) A CONTRACT PURCHASER WITH THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF
4 THE LANDOWNER MAY ALSO FILE A PETITION WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY
5 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

6 2-510.

7 (a) (1) An owner of agricultural land located in an agricultural district
8 established under this subtitle may offer by written application to sell an easement to
9 the Foundation on the entire contiguous acreage of such agricultural land.

10 (2) A CONTRACT PURCHASER OF AGRICULTURAL LAND LOCATED IN AN
11 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY OFFER BY
12 WRITTEN APPLICATION, AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LANDOWNER, TO SELL AN
13 EASEMENT TO THE FOUNDATION ON THE ENTIRE CONTIGUOUS ACREAGE OF THE
14 AGRICULTURAL LAND.

15 (l) (1) On or before June 30, the Foundation shall notify all landowners AND
16 CONTRACT PURCHASERS whose applications had been rejected during that fiscal
17 year. The Foundation shall specify the reasons for that rejection.

18 (2) A landowner OR CONTRACT PURCHASER whose application has been
19 rejected for a reason other than insufficient Foundation funds may not reapply to sell
20 an easement on the same land on the same terms until two years after the date of the
21 original application.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 1999.