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By: ~~Delegate Glassman~~ **Delegates Glassman and James**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Reassigned: Appropriations, February 18, 1999

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article - Agriculture  
19 Section 2-509(b)(1) and 2-510(a) and (l)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1985 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

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**Article - Agriculture**

2 2-509.

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

5 (1) (I) One or more owners of land actively devoted to agricultural use  
6 may file a petition with the county governing body requesting the establishment of an  
7 agricultural district composed of the land owned by the petitioners. The petition shall  
8 include maps and descriptions of the current use of land in the proposed district.

9 (II) ~~A CONTRACT PURCHASER WITH THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF~~  
10 ~~THE LANDOWNER MAY ALSO FILE A PETITION, ON BEHALF OF A CONTRACT~~  
11 ~~PURCHASER OF LAND, WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY REQUESTING THE~~  
12 ~~ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.~~

13 2-510.

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

17 (2) ~~A CONTRACT PURCHASER OF AGRICULTURAL LAND LOCATED IN AN~~  
18 ~~AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY OFFER BY~~  
19 ~~WRITTEN APPLICATION, AND WITH THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE LANDOWNER,~~  
20 ~~TO SELL AN EASEMENT TO THE FOUNDATION ON THE ENTIRE CONTIGUOUS~~  
21 ~~ACREAGE OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND.~~

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

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

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of five years and, at the end of  
31 September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
32 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

