
By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - Agriculture)**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans -**
3 **Use of Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the supervisors of a soil conservation district to provide
5 the Maryland Department of Agriculture with any information in a soil
6 conservation and water quality plan; authorizing the Department to use the
7 information for statistical purposes and to release the information to a certain
8 government agency for a law enforcement purpose; requiring the Department
9 and the supervisors to maintain plan information in a manner that protects the
10 identity of the person for whom the plan was prepared; and generally relating to
11 information concerning soil conservation and water quality plans.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Agriculture
14 Section 8-306(b), (c), and (d)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1985 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Agriculture**

20 8-306.

21 (B) (1) THE SUPERVISOR SHALL MAINTAIN INFORMATION FROM A SOIL
22 CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY PLAN IN A MANNER THAT PROTECTS THE
23 IDENTITY OF THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE PLAN IS PREPARED. HOWEVER, THE
24 SUPERVISORS SHALL MAKE A SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY PLAN
25 AVAILABLE TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WHICH MAY USE
26 THE INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

27 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (I) MAINTAIN THE INFORMATION IN THE MANNER THAT
2 PROTECTS THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE PLAN IS PREPARED; AND

3 (II) MAKE ANY INFORMATION FROM A PLAN AVAILABLE TO THE
4 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF WATER
5 QUALITY PERMIT COMPLIANCE OR ENFORCEMENT ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES
6 ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS.

7 [(b)] (C) As a condition to extending any benefit of this title to any land not
8 owned or controlled by the State or any of its agencies, or to performing work on them,
9 the supervisors may require contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise
10 to any operations conferring benefits, and may require the land occupier to enter into
11 and perform agreements or covenants concerning the permanent use of the land as
12 tends to prevent or control erosion.

13 [(c)] (D) The supervisors of two or more districts may cooperate with one
14 another in the exercise of any powers conferred by this title.

15 [(d)] (E) No provision relating to acquisition, operation, or disposition of
16 property by other public bodies is applicable to a district, unless the provision
17 specifically so states.

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