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By: **Delegates Rudolph, W. Baker, Bohanan, Stull, D'Amato, Hecht, Bozman,  
James, Boutin, and Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2000

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation**  
3                                   **Foundation**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural  
5 Land Preservation Foundation; specifying the membership and duties of the  
6 Task Force; providing for the appointment of a chairman of the Task Force;  
7 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;  
8 authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain  
9 expenses; providing for meetings of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to  
10 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates;  
11 providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act;  
12 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural  
13 Land Preservation Foundation.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article - Agriculture  
16 Section 2-517  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

21                                   **Article - Agriculture**

22 2-517.

23 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND  
24 PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.

25 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING 14 MEMBERS:

26 (1) ONE MEMBER FROM THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO BE APPOINTED  
27 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

1           (2)     ONE MEMBER FROM THE SENATE OF MARYLAND TO BE APPOINTED  
2 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3           (3)     THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
4 LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION;

5           (4)     THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

6           (5)     THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OR THE  
7 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

8           (6)     THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, OR THE DIRECTOR'S  
9 DESIGNEE; AND

10          (7)     EIGHT MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AS  
11 FOLLOWS:

12           (I)     ONE MEMBER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
13 MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION;

14           (II)    ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND FARM BUREAU;

15           (III)   ONE MEMBER FROM THE AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST;

16           (IV)    ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING CONSERVATION GROUPS IN THE  
17 STATE;

18           (V)     ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
19 COUNTIES;

20           (VI)    ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING A COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND  
21 PRESERVATION PROGRAM;

22           (VII)   ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND GRANGE; AND

23           (VIII)  ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
24 COMMISSION.

25   (C)     THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE.

26   (D)     A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR  
27 SERVING ON THE TASK FORCE, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
28 EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN  
29 THE STATE BUDGET.

30   (E)     THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH AT THE CALL OF  
31 THE CHAIRMAN.

32   (F)     THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

1 (1) STUDY THE CURRENT PROGRAM AND PRACTICES OF THE MARYLAND  
2 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION;

3 (2) STUDY THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE MARYLAND  
4 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION; AND

5 (3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM, PRACTICES,  
6 AND FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND  
7 PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.

8 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS  
9 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE  
10 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON OR BEFORE  
11 DECEMBER 1, 2000, AND SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE  
12 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2001.

13 (H) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER  
14 STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR THE TASK FORCE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
17 end of July 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
18 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.