
By: **Southern Maryland Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2001
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Agricultural Preservation Program - Inclusion of Smaller Farms**
3 **in Certain Counties**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring regulations and criteria developed by the Maryland
5 Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to provide that farmland in certain
6 counties that is at least a certain number of acres in size shall qualify for
7 inclusion in an agricultural district; and generally relating to the Maryland
8 Agricultural Preservation Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Agriculture
11 Section 2-509(c)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Agriculture**

17 2-509.

18 (c) Regulations and criteria developed by the Foundation relating to land
19 which may be included in an agricultural district shall provide that:

20 (1) [Land] SUBJECT TO ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, LAND shall meet
21 productivity, acreage, and locational criteria determined by the Foundation to be
22 necessary for the continuation of farming;

23 (2) AS LONG AS ALL OTHER CRITERIA ARE MET, LAND IN THE
24 FOLLOWING COUNTIES THAT IS AT LEAST 50 ACRES IN SIZE SHALL QUALIFY FOR
25 INCLUSION IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

26 (I) ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;

27 (II) CALVERT COUNTY;

1 (III) CHARLES COUNTY;

2 (IV) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY; AND

3 (V) ST. MARY'S COUNTY;

4 [(2)] (3) The Foundation shall attempt to preserve the minimum
5 number of acres in a given district which may reasonably be expected to promote the
6 continued availability of agricultural suppliers and markets for agricultural goods;

7 [(3)] (4) Land within the boundaries of a 10-year water and sewer
8 service district may be included in an agricultural district only if that land is
9 outstanding in productivity and is of significant size; and

10 [(4)] (5) Land may be included in an agricultural district only if the
11 county regulations governing the land permit the activities listed under § 2-513(a) of
12 this subtitle.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
14 effect October 1, 2001.