
By: **Delegates Amedori, Baldwin, Bartlett, Boutin, Brinkley, DeCarlo,
Donoghue, Edwards, Elliott, Getty, Giannetti, Glassman, Kach, Klima,
McKee, Menes, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Redmer, Riley, Shank,
Snodgrass, Stocksdale, Stull, Weir, Pielke, and Bates**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture - Crimes - Farm Product and Research Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from willfully and maliciously damaging or
4 destroying an agricultural operation or product; establishing certain criminal
5 and civil penalties for the willful and malicious damage or destruction of an
6 agricultural operation or product; defining certain terms; and generally relating
7 to the damage or destruction of an agricultural operation or product.

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Agriculture

10 Section 10-1601 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 16. Destruction of
11 Agricultural Operations and Products"

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 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 **SUBTITLE 16. DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND PRODUCTS.**

18 10-1601.

19 (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (2) "AGRICULTURAL OPERATION" MEANS LAND, BUILDINGS, AND
22 EQUIPMENT OWNED OR LEASED BY A FARMER, PRIVATE RESEARCH FACILITY,
23 UNIVERSITY, OR ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, USED IN
24 THE PRODUCTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT.

1 (3) "AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-601
2 OF THIS TITLE.

3 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT WILLFULLY OR MALICIOUSLY DAMAGE OR DESTROY
4 AN AGRICULTURAL OPERATION OR PRODUCT.

5 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON
6 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT
7 EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.

8 (D) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES OR PENALTIES PROVIDED FOR A
9 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON CONVICTED OF THE UNLAWFUL
10 DESTRUCTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL OPERATION OR PRODUCT SHALL BE REQUIRED
11 TO COMPENSATE THE OWNER OF THE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED AGRICULTURAL
12 OPERATION OR PRODUCT AT TWICE THE MARKET VALUE OF THE AGRICULTURAL
13 OPERATION OR PRODUCT DAMAGED OR DESTROYED.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2002.