

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Unofficial Copy
M4

2002 Regular Session
(2r2569)

ENROLLED RESOLUTION

-- Appropriations/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by **Delegates W. Baker and Stocksdale (Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation) and Delegate James**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this ____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Preservation of Agricultural Land**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a statewide goal to preserve ~~4.1 million acres of~~
4 agricultural land in Maryland.

5 WHEREAS, Agricultural land is an exhaustible resource of the State which,
6 once removed from agriculture, is forever lost for crop and food production, and for
7 open space uses; and

8 WHEREAS, Although approximately 35% of Maryland's total land area is
9 farmland, Maryland's agricultural land is still rapidly disappearing, with an
10 estimated 18,000 acres of farmland annually being converted to urban, commercial, or
11 other nonagricultural use; and

12 WHEREAS, Global economic trends, continuing development pressures, the
13 encroachment of strip and scattered development in rural areas and nearby cities,
14 and growing urbanization, threaten the destruction of Maryland's rural environment
15 and the disappearance of its valuable agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and

1 WHEREAS, Maryland should not become one large urban development without
2 any balanced agricultural economy; and

3 WHEREAS, It is generally essential to Maryland's economic and environmental
4 stability and growth, and particularly to maintain an agricultural economy in the
5 State, to preserve large, contiguous areas of prime and productive agricultural land;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
8 statewide goal is to ~~preserve 1.1 million acres of productive agricultural land~~ double
9 triple the existing numbers of acres of productive agricultural land preserved by the
10 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, GreenPrint, Rural Legacy, and
11 local preservation programs by the year 2022; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
13 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
14 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
15 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Secretary of
16 Agriculture; the Secretary of Natural Resources; and the Secretary of Planning.