

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

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2002 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates W. Baker and Stocksdales (Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation) and Delegate James**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Preservation of Agricultural Land**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a statewide goal to preserve ~~1.1 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

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

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

22 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
23 statewide goal is to ~~preserve 1.1 million acres of productive agricultural land~~ double

1 the existing numbers of acres of productive agricultural land preserved by the year
2 2022; and be it further

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