

SENATE BILL 544

Unofficial Copy
M4

2002 Regular Session
(2r2025)

ENROLLED BILL

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

Introduced by **Senators Middleton and Stoltzfus**

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.

President.

CHAPTER _____

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; setting goals to be sought in appointing the members of the Task
7 Force; providing for a chairman, compensation for members, and meetings of the
8 Task Force; requiring certain units to staff the Task Force; requiring a certain
9 report by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
10 relating to the Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land
11 Preservation Foundation.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Agriculture
14 Section 2-517
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Agriculture**

4 2-517.

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

7 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 18 MEMBERS:

8 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
9 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

10 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE
11 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

12 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR A DESIGNEE OF THE
13 SECRETARY;

14 (4) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT OR A DESIGNEE OF
15 THE SECRETARY;

16 (5) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING OR A DESIGNEE OF THE SECRETARY;

17 (6) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR A DESIGNEE OF THE
18 SECRETARY; AND

19 (7) TEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

24 (IV) ONE MEMBER FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION;

25 (V) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
26 COUNTIES;

27 (VI) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING A COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND
28 PRESERVATION PROGRAM;

29 (VII) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND GRANGE;

30 (VIII) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
31 COMMISSION;

1 (IX) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING FORESTRY GROUPS IN THE
2 STATE; AND

3 (X) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND LAND TRUST ALLIANCE.

4 (C) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ATTEMPT TO
5 ENSURE REGIONAL, ECONOMIC, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY ON THE TASK
6 FORCE.

7 (D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE AS
8 CHAIRMAN.

9 (E) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A
10 MEMBER BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
11 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

12 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST MONTHLY AT THE TIMES AND
13 PLACES THAT THE CHAIRMAN DETERMINES.

14 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR:

15 (1) GUIDELINES FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACREAGE GOALS FOR
16 EACH COUNTY THAT COMPLEMENT THE STATE GOAL;

17 (2) GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATION BY COUNTIES AND CERTIFICATION
18 BY THE STATE OF PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS;

19 (3) INCREASED FUNDING FROM NEW SOURCES FOR THE FARMLAND
20 PRESERVATION PROGRAM THAT IS TARGETED TO PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS
21 AND THAT ENABLES THE PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE ITS LEGISLATIVE GOALS;

22 (4) OTHER REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION
23 PROGRAM THAT PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT ENABLES THE PROGRAM TO
24 ACHIEVE ITS LEGISLATIVE GOALS;

25 (5) A SCHEDULE TO FOCUS NEW FUNDING INCREASINGLY OVER A
26 4-YEAR PERIOD TO PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS;

27 (6) THE CREATION AND FUNDING OF A STATEWIDE CRITICAL FARMS
28 PROGRAM AND METHODS TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF COUNTY CRITICAL
29 FARMS PROGRAMS;

30 (7) CHANGES IN PROVISIONS ABOUT TENANT HOUSES;

31 (8) CURRENT AND ALTERNATIVE EASEMENT VALUATION SYSTEMS
32 UNDER THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE
33 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS;

34 (9) AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OPTION; AND

1 (10) OTHER APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE
2 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

3 (H) ~~ON OR~~ BEFORE JUNE 1, 2004, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
4 OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §
5 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6 (I) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
7 PLANNING SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE UNITS TO PROVIDE STAFF FOR
8 THE TASK FORCE.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the approval of
10 the Governor, the same 18 members designated or appointed to serve on the Task
11 Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in
12 accordance with Chapter 634 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000
13 automatically qualify to serve on the Task Force created by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 June 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May
16 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.