

SENATE BILL 544

Unofficial Copy  
M4

2002 Regular Session  
2lr2025  
CF 2lr2568

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By: **Senators Middleton and Stoltzfus**  
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

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)

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

19 **Article - Agriculture**

20 2-517.

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

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

24 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
25 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

26 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE  
27 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

1           (3)     THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR A DESIGNEE OF THE  
2 SECRETARY;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14                   (V)     ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
15 COUNTIES;

16                   (VI)    ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING A COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND  
17 PRESERVATION PROGRAM;

18                   (VII)   ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND GRANGE;

19                   (VIII)  ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL  
20 COMMISSION;

21                   (IX)    ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING FORESTRY GROUPS IN THE  
22 STATE; AND

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

24    (C)     TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ATTEMPT TO  
25 ENSURE REGIONAL, ECONOMIC, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY ON THE TASK  
26 FORCE.

27    (D)     THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE AS  
28 CHAIRMAN.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (4) OTHER REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION  
10 PROGRAM THAT PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT ENABLES THE PROGRAM TO  
11 ACHIEVE ITS LEGISLATIVE GOALS;

12 (5) A SCHEDULE TO FOCUS NEW FUNDING INCREASINGLY OVER A  
13 4-YEAR PERIOD TO PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS;

14 (6) THE CREATION AND FUNDING OF A STATEWIDE CRITICAL FARMS  
15 PROGRAM AND METHODS TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF COUNTY CRITICAL  
16 FARMS PROGRAMS;

17 (7) CHANGES IN PROVISIONS ABOUT TENANT HOUSES;

18 (8) CURRENT AND ALTERNATIVE EASEMENT VALUATION SYSTEMS  
19 UNDER THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE  
20 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS;

21 (9) AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OPTION; AND

22 (10) OTHER APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE  
23 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

24 (H) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2004, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT  
25 OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §  
26 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

27 (I) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
28 PLANNING SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE UNITS TO PROVIDE STAFF FOR  
29 THE TASK FORCE.

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

35 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
36 June 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May

1 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.