

SENATE BILL 544

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2002 Regular Session
2lr2025
CF 2lr2568

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

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 28, 2002

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)

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.

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

2 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
3 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

4 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE
5 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

6 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR A DESIGNEE OF THE
7 SECRETARY;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (V) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
20 COUNTIES;

21 (VI) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING A COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND
22 PRESERVATION PROGRAM;

23 (VII) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND GRANGE;

24 (VIII) ONE MEMBER FROM THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
25 COMMISSION;

26 (IX) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING FORESTRY GROUPS IN THE
27 STATE; AND

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

29 (C) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ATTEMPT TO
30 ENSURE REGIONAL, ECONOMIC, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY ON THE TASK
31 FORCE.

1 (D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE AS
2 CHAIRMAN.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (4) OTHER REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION
17 PROGRAM THAT PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT ENABLES THE PROGRAM TO
18 ACHIEVE ITS LEGISLATIVE GOALS;

19 (5) A SCHEDULE TO FOCUS NEW FUNDING INCREASINGLY OVER A
20 4-YEAR PERIOD TO PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS;

21 (6) THE CREATION AND FUNDING OF A STATEWIDE CRITICAL FARMS
22 PROGRAM AND METHODS TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF COUNTY CRITICAL
23 FARMS PROGRAMS;

24 (7) CHANGES IN PROVISIONS ABOUT TENANT HOUSES;

25 (8) CURRENT AND ALTERNATIVE EASEMENT VALUATION SYSTEMS
26 UNDER THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE
27 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS;

28 (9) AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OPTION; AND

29 (10) OTHER APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE
30 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

31 (H) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2004, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
32 OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §
33 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

34 (I) THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
35 PLANNING SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE UNITS TO PROVIDE STAFF FOR
36 THE TASK FORCE.

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

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May
8 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.