
By: **Delegates Bozman and Conway**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2003
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Worcester County - Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board - Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of an agricultural preservation
4 advisory board and the number of members who meet certain requirements in
5 Worcester County; shortening the terms of members of the agricultural
6 preservation advisory board in Worcester County; and generally relating to the
7 membership of the agricultural preservation advisory board in Worcester
8 County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Agriculture
11 Section 2-504.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Agriculture**

17 2-504.1.

18 (a) In each county containing productive agricultural land, the county
19 governing body shall appoint an agricultural preservation advisory board.

20 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
21 SUBSECTION, THE agricultural preservation advisory board shall consist of five
22 members, at least three of whom shall be owner-operators of commercial farms who
23 earn 50 percent or more of their income from farming.

24 (2) IN WORCESTER COUNTY, THE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
25 ADVISORY BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS, AT LEAST FOUR OF WHOM
26 SHALL BE OWNER-OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL FARMS WHO EARN 50 PERCENT OR
27 MORE OF THEIR INCOME FROM FARMING.

1 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each member
2 of an agricultural preservation advisory board shall be appointed for a term of office
3 of five years.

4 (2) In Charles County AND IN WORCESTER COUNTY, a member shall
5 serve a term of office of 4 years.

6 (3) No member shall serve for more than two consecutive full terms.

7 (4) Appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the remainder of the
8 unexpired term.

9 (d) Duties of each agricultural preservation advisory board shall be:

10 (1) To advise the county governing body with respect to the
11 establishment of agricultural districts and the approval of purchases of easements by
12 the Foundation within the county;

13 (2) To assist the county governing body in reviewing the status of
14 agricultural districts and land under easement;

15 (3) To advise the Foundation concerning county priorities for
16 agricultural preservation;

17 (4) To approve or disapprove an application by the county for
18 certification under § 5-408 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

19 (5) To promote preservation of agriculture within the county by offering
20 information and assistance to farmers with respect to establishment of districts and
21 purchase of easements; and

22 (6) To perform any other duties as assigned by the county governing
23 body.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms altered by this
25 Act shall only affect members appointed after October 1, 2003, and members serving
26 on October 1, 2003, shall serve their original terms.

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2003.