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Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2004 Assigned to: Health and Government Operations Reassigned: Environmental Matters, February 9, 2004

Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2004

CHAPTER

## 1 AN ACT concerning

- 2 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Grants Installment Purchase Programs
- 4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation
- 5 Foundation to make grants to purchase easements on certain properties to
- 6 counties with certain installment purchase programs; authorizing the
- 7 Foundation to only approve installment purchase programs that purchase
- 8 easements using installment purchase agreements with certain characteristics;
- 9 providing that an easement purchased using a certain grant shall be jointly held
- by the county and the Foundation; providing that an easement purchased using
- 11 a certain grant may not terminate; defining a certain term; and generally
- 12 relating to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, grants,
- and installment purchase programs.
- 14 BY adding to
- 15 Article Agriculture
- 16 Section 2-510.1
- 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)
- 19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 Article - Agriculture

- 2 2-510.1.
- 3 (A) THE FOUNDATION MAY MAKE A GRANT TO PURCHASE AN EASEMENT ON A
- 4 PROPERTY SELECTED BY THE FOUNDATION TO A COUNTY WITH A PROGRAM,
- 5 APPROVED BY THE FOUNDATION, TO PURCHASE EASEMENTS USING INSTALLMENT
- 6 PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.
- 7 (B) THE FOUNDATION MAY ONLY APPROVE A COUNTY'S INSTALLMENT
- 8 PURCHASE PROGRAM IF THE PROGRAM IS USED TO PURCHASE EASEMENTS USING
- 9 INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENTS THAT:
- 10 (1) REQUIRE THE COUNTY TO MAKE ANNUAL EQUAL PAYMENTS TO THE
- 11 LANDOWNER OF INTEREST ON THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF THE PURCHASE
- 12 PRICE:
- 13 (2) REQUIRE THAT THE COUNTY PAY THE LANDOWNER THE
- 14 REMAINDER OF THE PURCHASE PRICE AT THE END OF THE TERM;
- 15 (3) STATE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY THE COUNTY WILL PAY THE
- 16 LANDOWNER, THE INTEREST RATE, AND THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT; AND
- 17 (4) REQUIRE THAT THE EASEMENT BE RECORDED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF
- 18 SETTLEMENT.
- 19 (C) AN EASEMENT PURCHASED USING A GRANT PROVIDED UNDER THIS
- 20 SECTION SHALL BE JOINTLY HELD BY THE COUNTY AND THE FOUNDATION.
- 21 (D) AN EASEMENT PURCHASED USING A GRANT PROVIDED UNDER THIS
- 22 SECTION MAY NOT TERMINATE.
- 23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
- 24 effect July 1, 2004.