
By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2004

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agricultural Land Preservation - Termination of Agricultural Districts**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a landowner to terminate the landowner's property
4 from an agricultural district after a certain time period has elapsed if the
5 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation has not purchased an
6 agricultural preservation easement on the property and the landowner provides
7 certain notice to the Foundation in a certain time period; providing that a
8 certain termination is not effective until the landowner executes and records the
9 termination; and generally relating to agricultural land preservation and the
10 termination of agricultural districts.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Agriculture
13 Section 2-509(b)(8)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Agriculture**

19 2-509.

20 (b) Regulations and procedures adopted by the Foundation for the
21 establishment and monitoring of agricultural districts shall provide that:

22 (8) (I) [At] NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
23 PARAGRAPH, AT any time after [five] 5 years from the establishment of a district a
24 landowner may terminate his property as an agricultural district by notifying the
25 Foundation [one] 1 year in advance of his intention to do so.

1 (II) 1. AFTER AT LEAST 30 MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED FROM THE
2 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, A LANDOWNER MAY TERMINATE
3 THE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY AS AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IF:

4 A. THE FOUNDATION HAS NOT PURCHASED AN
5 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT ON THE PROPERTY; AND

6 B. THE LANDOWNER NOTIFIES THE FOUNDATION OF THE
7 LANDOWNER'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DISTRICT AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE
8 TERMINATION.

9 2. A TERMINATION OF A PROPERTY AS AN AGRICULTURAL
10 DISTRICT UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE LANDOWNER
11 HAS EXECUTED AND RECORDED THE TERMINATION ALONG WITH LAND RECORDS.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2004.