

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 502

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, strike “establish” and substitute “jointly examine options for the establishment of”; strike beginning with the semicolon in line 6 down through “and” in line 12 and substitute “, develop certain criteria for county governments to use to qualify certain property for the Program, and examine financing options for easement acquisition under the Program, and to”; in line 12, after “report” insert “and legislative proposal”; strike beginning with “, including” in line 12 down through “legislation” in line 13; strike beginning with “providing” in line 13 down through “Act;” in line 14; and strike in their entirety lines 16 through 20, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike beginning with “the” in line 22 on page 1 down through “2006.” in line 8 on page 3 and substitute “, on or before January 1, 2006, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and the Department of Planning shall jointly:

(1) Examine options for the establishment of a Critical Farms Program to provide interim or emergency financing for the acquisition of agricultural preservation easements on critical farms that would otherwise be sold for nonagricultural uses;

(2) Develop criteria for counties to consider when determining whether a property qualifies for the Program, including:

(i) The qualifying strategic characteristics of the property, including location and productivity;

(ii) The circumstances creating the risk of the property being sold for nonagricultural purposes;

(Over)

(iii) When applicable, the characteristics of the purchaser of strategic farmland seeking assistance from the Program;

(iv) The consistency of the proposed acquisition with county goals and priorities and the county's priority preservation area; and

(v) Evaluation of the property as a priority easement acquisition;

(3) Examine financing options for easement acquisition on critical farms; and

(4) Submit a report on and legislative proposal for the establishment of a Critical Farms Program to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.”.

On page 3, in line 9, strike “4.” and substitute “2.”; and strike beginning with “, except” in line 9 down through “Act.” in line 10.