

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1334

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Weldon” and substitute “Weldon, Bobo, V. Clagett, Glassman, Jennings, Montgomery, Parker, and Weir”; in line 4, strike “establish” and substitute “jointly examine options for the establishment of”; strike beginning with the semicolon in line 6 down through the first “and” in line 10 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 10, after “report” insert “and legislative proposal”; and strike in their entirety lines 12 through 16, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with “the” in line 18 on page 1 down through “2006” in line 27 on page 2 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 2, in line 28, strike "3." and substitute "2.".