
By: **Delegates Rudolph, Conway, McKee, Bartlett, Boutin, Bozman, Cane, G. Clagett, Donoghue, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Elmore, Glassman, Haddaway, Hogan, Jennings, Kelly, Myers, Shank, Smigiel, Sossi, Stull, Walkup, and Weldon**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development**
3 **Corporation - Annual State Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include certain funding for the
5 Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
6 in the State budget during certain fiscal years; and generally relating to the
7 Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
10 Section 13-503
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

15 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

16 13-503.

17 (a) There is a Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry
18 Development Corporation.

19 (b) The Corporation is:

20 (1) A public corporation; and

21 (2) An instrumentality of the State.

22 (c) The purpose of the Corporation is to:

1 (1) Assist the viability of the State's diverse agricultural industry
2 through new markets development, capital and credit enhancements, and technical
3 and other assistance to support, create, and sustain agricultural businesses
4 throughout the State;

5 (2) Provide financing and other assistance for product development,
6 start-up and scale-up of Maryland food- and fiber-related growing and processing
7 operations, and for technological enhancements that benefit the environment and
8 water quality;

9 (3) Seek partnerships and leveraging opportunities with public and
10 private for-profit and not-for-profit entities in making capital and credit assistance
11 available to individual producers, producer cooperatives, and other agribusiness
12 concerns operating in the State;

13 (4) Facilitate and support access to high quality technical resources for
14 agricultural entrepreneurs by incorporating existing support infrastructure including
15 the development of strategic partnering opportunities and business incubation;

16 (5) Foster cross-industry communication and assist other organizations
17 in transferring to the private sector and commercializing the results and products of
18 scientific agricultural research and development conducted by the federal
19 government and colleges and universities; and

20 (6) Work with public and private lending and grant-making institutions
21 to:

22 (i) Make low- and no-interest loans and loan guarantees available
23 for agricultural product development, primary processing, and secondary
24 manufacturing;

25 (ii) Provide credit and capital to first-time farmers for land,
26 equipment, and working capital acquisition; and

27 (iii) Make incentives available for activities related to small farm or
28 small landowner viability and best management practices.

29 (D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2016, THE GOVERNOR
30 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CORPORATION IN
31 AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST \$4,500,000.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2005.