
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~~ Weldon, Bohanan, Branch, Franchot, Griffith, James, Jameson, Krebs, Kullen, Leopold, Levy, McComas, O'Donnell, Parrott, Proctor, Stocksdales, Vallario, and Wood**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Appropriations, March 14, 2005

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 4, 2005

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ authorizing the Governor to include certain funding for
5 the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development
6 Corporation in the State budget ~~during certain fiscal years each year;~~
7 authorizing the Corporation to work with certain lending and grant-making
8 institutions to make certain land and easement purchases; and generally
9 relating to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry
10 Development Corporation.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
13 Section 13-503 and 13-513(c)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

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

2 13-503.

3 (a) There is a Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry
4 Development Corporation.

5 (b) The Corporation is:

6 (1) A public corporation; and

7 (2) An instrumentality of the State.

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

9 (1) Assist the viability of the State's diverse agricultural industry
10 through new markets development, capital and credit enhancements, and technical
11 and other assistance to support, create, and sustain agricultural businesses
12 throughout the State;13 (2) Provide financing and other assistance for product development,
14 start-up and scale-up of Maryland food- and fiber-related growing and processing
15 operations, and for technological enhancements that benefit the environment and
16 water quality;17 (3) Seek partnerships and leveraging opportunities with public and
18 private for-profit and not-for-profit entities in making capital and credit assistance
19 available to individual producers, producer cooperatives, and other agribusiness
20 concerns operating in the State;21 (4) Facilitate and support access to high quality technical resources for
22 agricultural entrepreneurs by incorporating existing support infrastructure including
23 the development of strategic partnering opportunities and business incubation;24 (5) Foster cross-industry communication and assist other organizations
25 in transferring to the private sector and commercializing the results and products of
26 scientific agricultural research and development conducted by the federal
27 government and colleges and universities; and28 (6) Work with public and private lending and grant-making institutions
29 to:30 (i) Make low- and no-interest loans and loan guarantees available
31 for agricultural product development, primary processing, and secondary
32 manufacturing;33 (ii) Provide credit and capital to first-time farmers for land,
34 equipment, and working capital acquisition; ~~and~~35 (iii) Make incentives available for activities related to small farm or
36 small landowner viability and best management practices; AND

1 (IV) MAKE TEMPORARY LAND AND EASEMENT PURCHASES IN
2 ACCORDANCE WITH STATE OR LOCAL CRITICAL FARM ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

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

6 13-513.

7 (c) (1) The Corporation may receive annual funding through an
8 appropriation in the State budget.

9 (2) The Corporation may also receive funds for projects included in the
10 budgets of State units.

11 (3) All unexpended and unencumbered funds appropriated to the
12 Corporation shall remain with the Corporation for future uses.

13 (4) The Corporation shall conduct its financial affairs in such a manner
14 that, by the year 2020, it shall be self-sufficient and in no further need of general
15 operating support by the State.

16 (5) (1) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IN
17 ORDER TO ASSIST THE CORPORATION IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN
18 PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE EACH YEAR IN
19 THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CORPORATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO
20 \$5,000,000.

21 (II) IF THE STATE HAS PROVIDED A COMBINED AND CUMULATIVE
22 TOTAL OF \$12,000,000 OR LESS IN FISCAL YEAR 2006 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2010 TO
23 THE CORPORATION, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE EACH YEAR IN THE BUDGET BILL
24 AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CORPORATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$6,500,000.

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