

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 75 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Agriculture)

Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Board of Trustees**

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This departmental bill adds the Secretary of Planning as an ex officio member to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Board of Trustees. The Secretary of Planning may appoint a designee from within the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). The bill also repeals a provision that requires a representative of MDP to be an at-large member of the board and reduces the number of at-large members from nine to eight.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The change does not alter the overall membership of the MALPF Board of Trustees.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Agriculture has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A representative of MDP serves as one of nine at-large members of the MALPF Board of Trustees.

**Background:** MALPF is administered by a 12-member board of trustees which includes the State's Comptroller, Treasurer, and Secretary of Agriculture, all of whom serve as ex officio members. The other nine members of the board serve at-large and represent various regions of the State. All members are appointed by the Governor and serve a term of four years. At least five of the at-large members are farmer representatives, of whom three represent the Maryland Agricultural Commission, the Maryland Farm Bureau, and the Maryland State Grange.

Responsibilities of MALPF's Board of Trustees include: (1) disseminating information to farmland owners and other Maryland citizens; (2) providing assistance and coordination to the 23 Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Boards; (3) promulgating program rules, regulations, and procedures; (4) reviewing and approving district petitions; and (5) acquiring, by purchase or donation, agricultural land preservation easements on productive agricultural land.

Chapter 209 of 2000 changed the Maryland Office of Planning to a cabinet-level agency. Prior to that, and currently, a representative of the agency served on the MALPF Board of Trustees as an at-large member who had to be appointed every four years.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2005  
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