

(PRE-FILED)

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By: The Speaker and Delegates McIntosh, Conway, and Hixson Hixson, Aumann, Barkley, Bartlett, Barve, Bates, Bohanan, Bobo, Bozman, Branch, Bromwell, Bronrott, Brown, Burns, Cadden, Cane, Cardin, G. Clagett, V. Clagett, Cluster, Conroy, D. Davis, DeBoy, Donoghue, Doory, Dumais, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Elmore, Feldman, Franchot, Frush, Gaines, Glassman, Goodwin, Gordon, Griffith, Gutierrez, Hammen, Harrison, Haynes, Healey, Heller, Holmes, Hogan, Howard, Hubbard, James, Jameson, Jennings, Jones, Kaiser, Kelley, King, Krebs, Krysiak, Kullen, Lawton, Lee, Leopold, Levy, Love, Madaleno, Malone, Mandel, Marriott, Mayer, McComas, McConkey, McHale, McKee, Menes, Moe, Montgomery, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, O'Donnell, Paige, Parker, Patterson, Pendergrass, Petzold, Proctor, Pugh, Quinter, Rosenberg, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Sossi, Stern, Stocksdale, Stull, Trueschler, F. Turner, V. Turner, Vallario, Vaughn, Weir, and Zirkin

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Assigned to: Environmental Matters and Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 21, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~clarifying that certain funds received by the Maryland~~  
4 ~~Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation may be~~  
5 ~~used for rural business development and assistance; authorizing requiring the~~  
6 Governor to appropriate certain funds to the Maryland Agricultural and  
7 Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation for rural business  
8 development and assistance; authorizing the Governor to appropriate certain  
9 funds to the Corporation for certain easement and land acquisition programs;  
10 requiring authorizing counties to include a priority preservation area element in  
11 each county's comprehensive plan; authorizing the Maryland Agricultural Land  
12 Preservation Foundation to provide grants to the Maryland Agricultural and  
13 Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation under certain  
14 circumstances; requiring a priority preservation area to meet certain criteria;

1 requiring a certain acreage goal in a priority preservation area; requiring an  
2 update of a county's comprehensive plan to include a certain evaluation ~~relating~~  
3 ~~to priority preservation areas~~; requiring the Department of Planning and the  
4 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to certify priority  
5 preservation areas jointly; requiring the Governor to appropriate certain  
6 additional funds for certain soil conservation districts; establishing a University  
7 of Maryland ~~Agricultural Agriculture and Natural Resources~~ Internship  
8 Program at the University of Maryland, College Park; providing that the  
9 internship is unpaid; ~~requiring the Department of Agriculture to adopt certain~~  
10 ~~regulations~~; ~~establishing a program for certification of a county's priority~~  
11 ~~preservation areas~~; ~~establishing the application and notification processes for~~  
12 ~~certification of priority preservation areas~~; altering the process for the  
13 certification of county agricultural land preservation programs to include  
14 priority preservation areas; altering certain time frames and procedural  
15 requirements for the certification and recertification of county agricultural land  
16 preservation programs; prohibiting the certification for priority preservation  
17 areas unless the Department of Planning and the Foundation agree that certain  
18 criteria are satisfied; specifying eligibility for certain State funding; requiring  
19 the Department of Planning and the Foundation to adopt certain regulations by  
20 a certain date; requiring the Department of Planning and the Foundation to  
21 make a certain report; defining certain terms; expressing the intent of the  
22 General Assembly that the Governor make certain appropriations to the  
23 Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program, the Cover Crop  
24 Program, the Manure Transport Program, the Maryland Agricultural Land  
25 Preservation Foundation, the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based  
26 Industry Development Corporation, the Maryland Cooperative Extension, ~~and~~  
27 ~~certain State Soil Conservation Districts under certain circumstances~~; and the  
28 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund;  
29 encouraging the Department of Agriculture to modify the Cover Crop Program  
30 for the harvest of certain cover crops for biofuel production; supporting the  
31 promotion of agricultural education in the State; ~~requiring the University~~  
32 ~~System of Maryland to conduct certain research~~; requiring certain agencies to  
33 report to certain legislative committees on the effectiveness of certain increases  
34 in funding after a certain period of time; establishing an Incentives for  
35 Agriculture Task Force; providing that certain provisions of the Maryland Public  
36 Ethics Law do not apply under certain circumstances to certain regulated  
37 lobbyists; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force;  
38 requiring the Task Force to review certain reports and incentives; requiring the  
39 Task Force to ~~identify new incentives for farmers~~ review and evaluate certain  
40 aspects of the State tax structure and certain modifications or alternatives;  
41 requiring the Task Force to make a certain report; submit certain reports on or  
42 before certain dates; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to  
43 agricultural stewardship in the State.

44 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
45 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
46 Section 13-513(c)  
47 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

3 Article 66B - Land Use

4 Section ~~1.03(a)~~ 1.03 and ~~3.05(a)(4)~~ 3.05(a)(6) and (b)

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article 66B - Land Use

9 Section 3.05(a)(1) and (4)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Agriculture

14 Section 2-518

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article - Agriculture

19 Section 2-505(c) and 8-405(c)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

23 Article - Education

24 Section 12-115

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

27 BY adding to repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

28 Article - State Finance and Procurement

29 Section ~~5-409~~ 5-408

30 Annotated Code of Maryland

31 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

32 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

33 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

13-513.

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

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

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

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

(5) (i) ~~Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in~~ IN order to assist the Corporation in meeting the requirement specified in paragraph (4) of this subsection, the Governor ~~may~~ SHALL include each year in the budget bill an appropriation to the Corporation ~~in an amount up to \$5,000,000~~ FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. IN FISCAL YEAR 2008, \$2,000,000;
- 2. IN FISCAL YEAR 2009, \$3,000,000;
- 3. IN FISCAL YEAR 2010, \$4,000,000; AND
- 4. IN FISCAL YEAR 2011 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, \$5,000,000.

~~(ii) If the State has provided a combined and cumulative total of \$12,000,000 or less in fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2010 to the Corporation FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE, the Governor may include each year in the budget bill an appropriation to the Corporation in an amount up to \$6,500,000 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE.~~

~~(iii)~~ (ii) IN ADDITION TO ANY FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER ~~SUBPARAGRAPHS SUBPARAGRAPH(I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,~~ THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE EACH YEAR IN THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CORPORATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$5,000,000 FOR RURAL ACQUISITION AND EASEMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PROGRAMS TO ASSIST YOUNG AND BEGINNING FARMERS.

**Article 66B - Land Use**

1.03.

(a) (1) When developing a comprehensive plan for a charter county, a planning commission shall include:

(i) A transportation plan element which shall:

1. Propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for transportation facilities, and for the circulation of persons and goods on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;

2. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian access and travelways;

3. Include an estimate of the probable utilization of any proposed improvement;

(ii) If current geological information is available, a mineral resources plan element that:

1. Identifies undeveloped land that should be kept in its undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a continuous supply of minerals, as defined in § 15-801(i) of the Environment Article;

2. Identifies appropriate postexcavation uses for the land that are consistent with the county's land planning process;

3. Incorporates land use policies and recommendations for regulations:

A. To balance mineral resource extraction with other land uses; and

B. To the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of mineral resources extraction by other uses; and

4. Has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment to determine whether the proposed comprehensive plan is consistent with the programs and goals of the Department;

(iii) An element which contains the planning commission's recommendation for land development regulations to implement the comprehensive plan and which encourages:

1. Streamlined review of applications for development, including permit review and subdivision plat review within the areas designated for growth in the comprehensive plan;

1 2. The use of flexible development regulations to promote  
2 innovative and cost-saving site design and protect the environment; and

3 3. Economic development in areas designated for growth in  
4 the comprehensive plan through the use of innovative techniques; {and}

5 (iv) A sensitive areas element that contains goals, objectives,  
6 principles, policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the  
7 adverse effects of development; AND,

8 ~~(V) A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT THAT IS~~  
9 ~~DEVELOPED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.~~

10 (2) The channels, routes, travelways, and terminals required under  
11 paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection may include all types of highways or streets, bicycle  
12 ways, sidewalks, railways, waterways, airways, routings for mass transit, and  
13 terminals for people, goods, and vehicles related to highways, airways, waterways,  
14 and railways.

15 (3) The mineral resources plan element required under paragraph (1)(ii)  
16 of this subsection shall be incorporated in:

17 (i) Any new comprehensive plan adopted after July 1, 1986 for all  
18 or any part of a jurisdiction; and

19 (ii) Any amendment or addition that is adopted after July 1, 1986  
20 to a comprehensive plan that was in effect on July 1, 1985.

21 (B) WHEN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR A CHARTER COUNTY, A  
22 PLANNING COMMISSION MAY INCLUDE A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT  
23 THAT IS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

24 [(b)] (C) (1) A planning commission shall include in its comprehensive plan  
25 [all];

26 (I) ALL elements required in subsection (a) of this section and the  
27 visions set forth in § 1.01 of this article; AND

28 (II) IF CHOSEN UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ITS  
29 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT.

30 (2) At least once every 6 years, the planning commission shall review  
31 and, if necessary, revise or amend a comprehensive plan to include [all];

32 (I) ALL elements required in subsection (a) of this section and the  
33 visions set forth in § 1.01 of this article; AND

34 (II) IF CHOSEN UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ITS  
35 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT.

1           (3)     If the comprehensive plan for each geographic section or division is  
2 reviewed and, if necessary, revised or amended at least once every 6 years, the  
3 planning commission may prepare comprehensive plans for one or more major  
4 geographic sections or divisions of the local jurisdiction.

5     [(c)]   (D)   (1)     A planning commission shall implement the visions set forth in  
6 § 1.01 of this article through the comprehensive plan elements required under  
7 subsection (a) of this section.

8           (2)     A local legislative body that has adopted a comprehensive plan may  
9 adopt regulations implementing the visions stated in § 1.01 of this article in a  
10 comprehensive plan.

11     [(d)]   (E)     On or before July 1, 1997, and subsequently at intervals of not more  
12 than 6 years which correspond to the comprehensive plan revision under subsection  
13 [(b)] (C) of this section, a charter county shall ensure that the implementation of the  
14 provisions of the comprehensive plan that comply with § 1.01 of this article and  
15 subsection (a)(1)(iii) and (iv) of this section are achieved through the adoption of:

16           (1)     applicable zoning ordinances and regulations;

17           (2)     planned development ordinances and regulations;

18           (3)     subdivision ordinances and regulations; and

19           (4)     other land use ordinances and regulations that are consistent with  
20 the comprehensive plan.

21 3.05.

22     (a)    (1)     A planning commission shall make and approve a plan which the  
23 commission shall recommend to the local legislative body for adoption.

24           (4)     The plan shall contain at a minimum the following elements:

25                   (i)     A statement of goals and objectives, principles, policies, and  
26 standards, which shall serve as a guide for the development and economic and social  
27 well-being of the local jurisdiction;

28                   (ii)    A land use plan element, which:

29                               1.     Shall propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns  
30 for the general location, character, extent, and interrelationship of the uses of public  
31 and private land, on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;  
32 and

33                               2.     May include public and private, residential, commercial,  
34 industrial, agricultural, and recreational land uses;

35                   (iii)    A transportation plan element which shall:

1. Propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for transportation facilities, and for the circulation of persons and goods on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;
  2. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian access and travelways;
  3. Include an estimate of the probable utilization of any proposed improvement;
- (iv) A community facilities plan element, which:
1. Shall propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for the general location, character, and extent of public and semipublic buildings, land, and facilities on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;
  2. May include parks and recreation areas, schools and other educational and cultural facilities, libraries, churches, hospitals, social welfare and medical facilities, institutions, fire stations, police stations, jails, or other public office or administrative facilities;
- (v) If current geological information is available, a mineral resources plan element that:
1. Identifies undeveloped land that should be kept in its undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a continuous supply of minerals, as defined in § 15-801(i) of the Environment Article;
  2. Identifies appropriate post-excavation uses for the land that are consistent with the county's land planning process;
  3. Incorporates land use policies and recommendations for regulations:
    - A. To balance mineral resource extraction with other land uses; and
    - B. To the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of mineral resources extraction by other uses; and
  4. Has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment to determine whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of the Department;
- (vi) An element which shall contain the planning commission's recommendation for land development regulations to implement the plan and which encourages the following:



1 1. Streamlined review of applications for development,  
2 including permit review and subdivision plat review within the areas designated for  
3 growth in the plan;

4 2. The use of flexible development regulations to promote  
5 innovative and cost-saving site design and protect the environment; and

6 3. Economic development in areas designated for growth in  
7 the plan through the use of innovative techniques;

8 (vii) Recommendations for the determination, identification, and  
9 designation of areas within the county that are of critical State concern; {and}

10 (viii) A sensitive area element that contains goals, objectives,  
11 principles, policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the  
12 adverse effects of development; ~~AND.~~

13 ~~(IX) A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT THAT IS~~  
14 ~~DEVELOPED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.~~

15 (6) (i) The plan may include any additional elements which, in the  
16 judgment of the planning commission, will further advance the purposes of the plan.

17 (ii) The additional plan elements may include:

18 1. Community renewal elements;

19 2. Housing elements;

20 3. Flood control elements;

21 4. Pollution control elements;

22 5. Conservation elements;

23 6. Natural resources elements; [and]

24 7. The general location and extent of public utilities; AND

25 8. PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS DEVELOPED IN  
26 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

27 (b) (1) Each local jurisdiction shall adopt and include in [their plans all] ITS  
28 PLAN;

29 (I) ALL of the elements required in subsection (a) of this section  
30 and all of the visions set forth in § 1.01 of this article; AND

31 (II) IF CHOSEN UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(6) OF THIS SECTION, A  
32 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT.

1 (2) at least once every 6 years, each planning commission shall review  
 2 and, if necessary, revise or amend the local plan to include [all];

3 (I) ALL of the elements required in subsection (a) of this section  
 4 and all of the visions set forth in § 1.01 of this article; AND

5 (II) IF CHOSEN UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(6) OF THIS SECTION, A  
 6 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT.

7 (3) If the plan for each geographic section or division is reviewed and, if  
 8 necessary, revised or amended at least once every 6 years, the planning commission  
 9 may prepare plans for one or more major geographic sections or divisions of the  
 10 jurisdiction.

11 **Article - Agriculture**

12 2-505.

13 (c) (1) The Comptroller of the Treasury may not disburse any money from  
 14 the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund other than:

15 [(1)] (I) For costs associated with the staffing and administration of the  
 16 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation;

17 [(2)] (II) For reasonable expenses incurred by the members of the board  
 18 of trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in the  
 19 performance of official duties; and

20 [(3)] (III) For consideration in the purchase of agricultural land  
 21 preservation easements beginning with fiscal year 1979 and each fiscal year  
 22 thereafter.

23 (2) (I) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION  
 24 FOUNDATION MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND  
 25 RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO FACILITATE THE  
 26 PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS JOINTLY AGREED UPON BY  
 27 THE FOUNDATION AND THE CORPORATION.

28 (II) THE CORPORATION MAY ONLY USE THESE GRANTS FOR  
 29 EXPENSES RELATED TO FACILITATING THE PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS UNDER THE  
 30 CRITICAL FARMS OR INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAMS.

31 2-518.

32 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "AREA" MEANS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

33 (B) A COUNTY ~~SHALL~~ MAY INCLUDE A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA  
 34 ELEMENT IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

35 (C) AN AREA SHALL:

11 UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 2

1 (1) (I) CONTAIN PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST SOILS; OR

2 (II) BE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL  
3 AND FORESTRY ENTERPRISES WHERE PRODUCTIVE SOILS ARE LACKING;

4 (2) BE GOVERNED BY LOCAL POLICIES THAT STABILIZE THE  
5 AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND BASE SO THAT DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT  
6 CONVERT OR COMPROMISE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST RESOURCES; AND

7 (3) BE LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE KIND OF AGRICULTURAL  
8 OPERATIONS THAT THE COUNTY SEEKS TO PRESERVE, AS REPRESENTED IN ITS  
9 ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

10 (D) AN AREA MAY:

11 (1) CONSIST OF A SINGLE PARCEL OF LAND, MULTIPLE CONNECTED  
12 PARCELS OF LAND, OR MULTIPLE UNCONNECTED PARCELS OF LAND; AND

13 (2) INCLUDE RURAL LEGACY AREAS.

14 (E) A COUNTY'S ACREAGE GOAL FOR LAND TO BE PRESERVED THROUGH  
15 EASEMENTS AND ZONING WITHIN AN AREA SHALL BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST 80% OF  
16 THE REMAINING UNDEVELOPED ~~AREAS OF~~ LAND IN THE AREA, AS CALCULATED AT  
17 THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR STATE CERTIFICATION OF AN AREA.

18 (F) EACH TIME A COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS UPDATED, THE UPDATE  
19 SHALL INCLUDE AN EVALUATION OF:

20 (1) THE COUNTY'S PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS OF THE  
21 FOUNDATION;

22 (2) ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN THE COUNTY'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THE  
23 GOALS OF THE FOUNDATION; AND

24 (3) PAST, CURRENT, AND PLANNED ACTIONS TO CORRECT ANY  
25 IDENTIFIED SHORTCOMINGS.

26 (G) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § ~~5-409~~ 5-408 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND  
27 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE AND ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY  
28 OF THAT SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND THE MARYLAND  
29 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION SHALL JOINTLY CERTIFY AN  
30 AREA.

31 8-405.

32 (c) [For fiscal year 2000 and each fiscal year thereafter, the] THE Governor  
33 shall include in the annual budget bill an amount sufficient to employ not less than  
34 110 field personnel in the soil conservation districts under this title. THE  
35 APPROPRIATION SHALL EXCEED THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 LEGISLATIVE

1 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 24 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BY THE FOLLOWING  
 2 AMOUNTS:

3 (1) IN FISCAL YEAR 2008, \$1,000,000;

4 (2) IN FISCAL YEAR 2009, \$1,500,000;

5 (3) IN FISCAL YEAR 2010, \$2,000,000; AND

6 (4) IN FISCAL YEAR 2011 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,  
 7 \$2,500,000.

8 **Article - Education**

9 12-115.

10 (A) THERE IS A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ~~AGRICULTURAL~~ AGRICULTURE  
 11 AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

12 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ~~AGRICULTURAL~~  
 13 AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS TO:

14 (1) PROVIDE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND  
 15 NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK WITH AT  
 16 LEAST ONE SEMESTER, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OF HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WORKING  
 17 ON A FARM IN THE STATE; WORK EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THEIR MAJOR,  
 18 INCLUDING ON-FARM EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CAREERS  
 19 RELATED TO PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURE; AND

20 (2) ~~PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN THE STATE; AND~~

21 (3) PROMOTE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN  
 22 THE STATE.

23 (C) ~~THE INTERNSHIP SHALL BE UNPAID.~~

24 (D) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK OR THE DEAN OF THE  
 25 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
 26 MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK SHALL ~~CONSULT WITH~~ INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 27 AGRICULTURE ON THE UNIVERSITY'S PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
 28 THIS SECTION.

29 (D) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION SHALL WORK THROUGH ITS  
 30 MEMBERS REPRESENTING SPECIFIC SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
 31 RESOURCES TO PROMOTE, AND WHERE POSSIBLE, TO ESTABLISH INTERNSHIPS  
 32 WITH FARMS AND BUSINESSES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS.

1 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

2 ~~5-409; 5-408.~~

3 ~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FOUNDATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL~~  
 4 ~~LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-502 OF THE~~  
 5 ~~AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.~~

6 ~~(B) THERE IS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A PROGRAM FOR CERTIFICATION OF~~  
 7 ~~PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE~~  
 8 ~~ARTICLE.~~

9 ~~(C) (1) TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION, A COUNTY~~  
 10 ~~SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AN APPLICATION IN~~  
 11 ~~THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY REQUIRE BY~~  
 12 ~~REGULATION.~~

13 ~~(2) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR~~  
 14 ~~CERTIFICATION, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION SHALL JOINTLY NOTIFY~~  
 15 ~~THE COUNTY AS TO WHETHER THE COUNTY'S APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED.~~

16 (a) There is within the Department a program for certification of effective  
 17 county agricultural land preservation programs.

18 (b) A county may apply to the Department and the Maryland Agricultural  
 19 Land Preservation Foundation for certification under this section only if the county  
 20 agricultural preservation advisory board and the governing body of the county both:

21 (1) approve the program established at the county level as being an  
 22 effective approach to agricultural land preservation; and

23 (2) approve the county's application for certification.

24 (c) (1) A county may apply for certification under this section if the county  
 25 has established programs to encourage participation of farmers in agricultural land  
 26 preservation efforts at the county level, including purchase of development rights or  
 27 financial enhancements related to purchase of development rights, outside of the  
 28 State Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

29 (2) County programs shall include:

30 (I) any program that the Department and the Foundation:

31 [(i)] 1. determine is necessary for an effective county agricultural  
 32 land preservation program; and

33 [(ii)] 2. require by regulation; AND

34 (II) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2009, A PRIORITY PRESERVATION  
 35 AREA ELEMENT ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE  
 36 ARTICLE.

1 (d) (1) To apply for certification under this section, a county shall file with  
2 the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and the Department an  
3 application in the form that the Department and the Foundation jointly require by  
4 regulation.

5 (2) Within [45] 60 days after notification of an application for  
6 certification:

7 (i) the foundation shall advise the Department as to whether it  
8 approves the application; and

9 (ii) the Department shall notify the county as to whether the  
10 county's application for certification has been approved.

11 (e) The Department and the Foundation may not certify a county under this  
12 section unless the Department and the Foundation determine that:

13 (1) the proposed county program for the purchase of development rights  
14 or financial enhancements related to the purchase of development rights is likely to  
15 be successful; [and]

16 (2) [either:

17 (i) local expenditures prior to July 1, 1990, for the purchase of  
18 development rights or financial enhancements related to the purchase of development  
19 rights have equaled or exceeded the additional funds that will be available to the  
20 county as a result of certification; or

21 (ii) the county has committed to spend additional local funds for the  
22 purchase of development rights or enhancements related to the purchase of  
23 development rights in an amount equal to or exceeding the amount of the additional  
24 funds that will be available as a result of certification; AND

25 (3) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2009:

26 (I) THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA HAS BEEN  
27 ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE; AND

28 (II) THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT IN  
29 THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION  
30 (F) OF THIS SECTION.

31 ~~(D)~~ (F) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION MAY NOT CERTIFY A  
32 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA OF A COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
33 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AGREE THAT THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE  
34 PLAN:

35 (1) ESTABLISHES APPROPRIATE GOALS FOR THE AMOUNT AND TYPES  
36 OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE LAND TO BE PRESERVED IN THE PRIORITY  
37 PRESERVATION AREA;

1 (2) DESCRIBES THE KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THE  
2 COUNTY INTENDS TO SUPPORT AND THE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT THE COUNTY  
3 INTENDS TO ALLOW;

4 (3) INCLUDES MAPS SHOWING THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION  
5 AREA;

6 (4) DESCRIBES THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA IN THE CONTEXT OF  
7 THE COUNTY'S GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANS;

8 (5) DESCRIBES THE WAY IN WHICH PRESERVATION GOALS WILL BE  
9 ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, INCLUDING THE COUNTY'S  
10 STRATEGY TO:

11 (I) PROTECT LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ZONING;

12 (II) PRESERVE THE DESIRED AMOUNT OF LAND WITH PERMANENT  
13 EASEMENTS; AND

14 (III) MAINTAIN A RURAL ENVIRONMENT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING  
15 THE KIND OF PRODUCTION INTENDED;

16 (6) INCLUDES AN EVALUATION OF THE ABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S  
17 ZONING AND OTHER LAND USE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO:

18 (I) LIMIT THE IMPACT OF SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT;

19 (II) ALLOW TIME FOR EASEMENT PURCHASE; AND

20 (III) ACHIEVE EACH OF THE FOUNDATION'S GOALS BEFORE THE  
21 GOALS ARE IRREPARABLY UNDERMINED OR IMPAIRED BY DEVELOPMENT;

22 (7) IDENTIFIES SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ABILITIES OF THE COUNTY'S  
23 ZONING AND LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND IDENTIFIES CURRENT OR  
24 FUTURE ACTIONS TO CORRECT THE SHORTCOMINGS; AND

25 (8) DESCRIBES THE METHODS THE COUNTY WILL USE TO  
26 CONCENTRATE PRESERVATION FUNDS AND OTHER SUPPORTING EFFORTS IN THE  
27 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE FOUNDATION AND  
28 THE COUNTY'S ACREAGE PRESERVATION GOAL.

29 ~~(E)~~ (G) IN CERTIFYING A COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, THE  
30 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION SHALL ENSURE THAT:

31 (1) THE COUNTY HAS INCLUDED ALL THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY  
32 SUBSECTION ~~(D)~~ (F) OF THIS SECTION IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND

33 (2) THE SIZE OF THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA IS  
34 APPROPRIATE IN RELATION TO THE COUNTY'S ACREAGE PRESERVATION GOAL.

1 ~~(F) IF A COUNTY HAS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA THAT HAS BEEN~~  
 2 ~~CERTIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE~~  
 3 ~~FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENTS~~  
 4 ~~WITHIN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.~~

5 ~~(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2006, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE~~  
 6 ~~FOUNDATION JOINTLY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE~~  
 7 ~~CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.~~

8 ~~(H) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,~~  
 9 ~~THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY SHALL REPORT ON THE~~  
 10 ~~CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BY JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR TO:~~

11 ~~(1) THE GOVERNOR;~~

12 ~~(2) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING;~~

13 ~~(3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE;~~

14 ~~(4) THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS~~  
 15 ~~COMMITTEE; AND~~

16 ~~(5) THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE.~~

17 ~~[(f)] (H) (1) A county that has been certified under this section as having~~  
 18 ~~established an effective county agricultural land preservation program is eligible for:~~

19 ~~(I) the additional funds available to certified counties under §~~  
 20 ~~2-508.1 of the Agriculture Article and § 13-306 of the Tax - Property Article; AND~~

21 ~~(II) AS OF JULY 1, 2008, FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE MARYLAND~~  
 22 ~~AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OVER AND ABOVE THE~~  
 23 ~~FUNDING THE FOUNDATION RECEIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-508.1 OF THE~~  
 24 ~~AGRICULTURE ARTICLE AND §§ 13-209 AND 13-306 OF THE TAX - PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

25 ~~(2) A county that has been certified under this section may use the~~  
 26 ~~additional funds available as a result of certification:~~

27 ~~(I) for the purposes stated under § 2-508.1 of the Agriculture~~  
 28 ~~Article and § 13-306 of the Tax - Property Article;~~

29 ~~(II) TO PURCHASE EASEMENTS IN ITS PRIORITY PRESERVATION~~  
 30 ~~AREA;~~

31 ~~(III) FOR A CRITICAL FARMS PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE~~  
 32 ~~FOUNDATION; OR~~

33 ~~(IV) FOR AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAM~~  
 34 ~~APPROVED BY THE FOUNDATION.~~



1 [(g)] (I) (1) A certification under this section is effective for [2] 3 years and  
 2 the decision by the Department and the Foundation as to certification is final with no  
 3 right to appeal.

4 (2) At the request of the county, the Department and the Foundation  
 5 shall recertify under this section a county [that] AGRICULTURAL LAND  
 6 PRESERVATION PROGRAM IF:

7 (I) THE COUNTY has maintained a successful program of purchase  
 8 of development rights or financial enhancements related to purchase of development  
 9 rights during the period of certification;

10 (II) CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTY PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA  
 11 REMAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 2-518 OF THE  
 12 AGRICULTURE ARTICLE;

13 (III) THE COUNTY PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON THE METHOD,  
 14 EVALUATION, SHORTCOMINGS, AND FUTURE ACTIONS THAT THE COUNTY IS USING  
 15 OR WILL USE TO ACHIEVE PRESERVATION GOALS, AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION  
 16 (F)(6) THROUGH (8) OF THIS SECTION; AND

17 (IV) THE UPDATE DEMONSTRATES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS  
 18 TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF PRESERVATION GOALS IN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION  
 19 AREA.

20 [(h)] (J) The Department and the Foundation shall jointly adopt regulations  
 21 for administration of the certification program.

22 [(i)] (K) [The] IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 2-1246 OF  
 23 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE Department and the Foundation shall  
 24 report on the certification program on or before January 15 of each year to:

25 (1) the Governor[.];

26 (2) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE SECRETARY OF  
 27 PLANNING;

28 (3) the [budget committees] SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION  
 29 COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
 30 COMMITTEE; and

31 (4) the House APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE  
 32 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS  
 33 AND MEANS [Committees on Ways and Means and Environmental Matters of the  
 34 General Assembly, and the Department of Legislative Services].

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
 36 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
 37 additional \$7,000,000 per year for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost  
 38 Share Program for 5 consecutive fiscal years, for a total increase of \$35,000,000 over

1 the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation. It is also the intent of the General Assembly  
2 that the increased level of funding be continued in future fiscal years.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
4 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
5 additional \$3,000,000 annually in general funds for the Cover Crop Program within  
6 the Department of Agriculture, over and above any funding received from the  
7 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, until a total of at least \$14,000,000 is  
8 appropriated to the Program on an annual basis. It is the intent of the General  
9 Assembly that any funds appropriated to the Cover Crop Program that are not used  
10 in any given fiscal year not revert back to the general fund. It is also the intent of the  
11 General Assembly that the Department of Agriculture modify the Cover Crop  
12 Program to allow farmers to harvest small grains for biofuels; participants that  
13 harvest such crops should receive a reduced cost share payment per acre. The General  
14 Assembly encourages the development of a biofuels industry in the State and  
15 encourages the State to ensure that sufficient grains are available to support the  
16 operation of biofuels plants.

17 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
18 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor increase  
19 State funding for the Manure Transport Program within the Department of  
20 Agriculture until State funding reaches the level of \$750,000 annually.

21 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
22 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide  
23 \$20,000,000 annually in general funds for the Maryland Agricultural Land  
24 Preservation Foundation over and above any other funding the Foundation receives  
25 from other sources. Additionally, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the  
26 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation be permitted to use this  
27 additional funding for its existing easement acquisition program, the Critical Farms  
28 Program, a Priority Preservation Areas Program, or an installment purchase  
29 agreement program. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that any funding  
30 not used in a given fiscal year not revert back to the general fund.

31 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
32 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide  
33 \$5,000,000 ~~in annual funding to capitalize the Maryland Agricultural and~~  
34 ~~Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation's loan programs. It is also the~~  
35 ~~intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide \$5,000,000 annually for 2~~  
36 consecutive fiscal years for the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry  
37 Development Corporation to develop a Next Generation Farmland Acquisition  
38 Program.

39 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
40 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an  
41 additional \$2,000,000 in annual funding over the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation  
42 for the Maryland Cooperative Extension at the University of Maryland. It is the  
43 intent of the General Assembly that this funding be used to support additional staff to  
44 provide enhanced technical assistance on best management practices to farmers and

1 to reestablish a soil testing laboratory in the State. It is also the intent of the General  
2 Assembly that the funding for the Maryland Cooperative Extension not be reduced by  
3 the University of Maryland.

4 ~~SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds~~  
5 ~~are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an~~  
6 ~~additional \$2,500,000 in annual funding over the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation~~  
7 ~~for the 23 Soil Conservation Districts in the State to increase staffing levels to 110~~  
8 ~~field personnel.~~

9 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds  
10 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide at  
11 least \$150,000 annually in general funds for the Maryland Agricultural Education  
12 and Rural Development Assistance Fund. Any funds that may be provided to the  
13 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund from the  
14 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund may count toward satisfying the intent  
15 of this section.

16 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
17 strongly supports the promotion of agricultural education throughout the State. The  
18 General Assembly encourages the University of Maryland, College Park to provide a  
19 greater focus on agriculture and extension education, and to establish a unique major  
20 in this area.

21 ~~SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the University System~~  
22 ~~of Maryland shall use existing budgeted resources to conduct research to:~~

23 (a) ~~Develop poultry feeds that reduce the amount of ammonia in chicken~~  
24 ~~exereta;~~

25 (b) ~~Improve poultry litter use in no till cropping practices;~~

26 (c) ~~Determine how much poultry litter is produced and how much can be~~  
27 ~~land applied in an environmentally sensitive manner; and~~

28 (d) ~~Find alternative uses for excess poultry litter.~~

29 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any of the  
30 programs under this Act receive an increase in funding in accordance with the  
31 provisions of this Act, the affected agencies shall report to the House Appropriations  
32 Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, the Senate Budget and  
33 Taxation Committee, and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
34 Committee after 3 consecutive fiscal years of increased funding, in accordance with §  
35 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the impact of such increased funding on  
36 the effectiveness of the programs.

37 ~~SECTION 11.~~ 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

38 (a) There is an Incentives for Agriculture Task Force.

1 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

2 (1) one member of the House Ways and Means Committee, appointed by  
3 the Speaker of the House;

4 (2) one member of the House Environmental Matters Committee,  
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

6 (3) one member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,  
7 appointed by the President of the Senate;

8 (4) one member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental  
9 Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate; ~~and~~

10 (5) one member of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and  
11 Natural Resources, appointed by the President of the University of Maryland, College  
12 Park; and

13 ~~(5)~~ (6) the following ~~seven~~ ten members, appointed by the ~~Governor~~  
14 Secretary of Agriculture:

15 (i) one representative of the Department of Agriculture;

16 (ii) one representative of the Comptroller's Office;

17 (iii) one representative from the Rural Maryland Council;

18 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

19 (v) one representative from agri-business;

20 (vi) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Maryland  
21 Agricultural Commission; ~~and~~

22 (vii) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Young  
23 Farmer's Advisory Board;

24 (viii) two representatives of the environmental community; and

25 (ix) one specialist in Maryland tax law.

26 (c) From among its members, the Task Force shall elect a chair of the Task  
27 Force.

28 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task  
29 Force.

30 (e) (1) A member of the Task Force:

31 ~~(1)~~ (i) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force;

32 but

1           (2)     (ii)     is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
2 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

3           (2)     If the Secretary of Agriculture appoints a regulated lobbyist to serve  
4 as a member of the Task Force, the lobbyist:

5                     (i)     is not subject to § 15-504(d) of the State Government Article  
6 with respect to that service; and

7                     (ii)    is not subject to § 15-703(f)(3) of the State Government Article  
8 as a result of that service.

9     (f)     The Task Force shall:

10           (1)     review the final recommendations and report of the Agricultural  
11 Stewardship Commission released in January 2006;

12           (2)     ~~study existing tax incentives related to farming~~ review and evaluate  
13 the overall State tax structure as it impacts agriculture and the feasibility of  
14 modifications or alternatives to the current structure that would enhance the  
15 profitability of farming, including recommendations regarding:

16                     (i)     a reduction or elimination of the State inheritance and estate  
17 taxes for agricultural property and enterprises;

18                     (ii)    a reduction or elimination of the capital gains tax on the sale of  
19 development rights related to agricultural property;

20                     (iii)   an increase in the amount of the employer tax exemption  
21 applied to agricultural enterprises;

22                     (iv)    a reduction or elimination of the amusement tax for  
23 agro-tourism enterprises;

24                     (v)     the creation of tax credits or exemptions applicable to the  
25 production of ethanol, biodiesel, or other bio-energy alternatives;

26                     (vi)    the various methods used by local governments to assess the  
27 value of real property used for agriculture;

28                     (vii)   the existing tax incentives related to land conservation and  
29 preservation programs in the State, including the tax credit for preservation  
30 easements under § 10-723 of the Tax - General Article; and

31                     (viii)   any other option considered appropriate by the Task Force; and

32           (3)     identify any ~~new or additional tax incentives~~ modifications to the  
33 current State tax structure that would help farmers to be better stewards of the land  
34 while maintaining the economic viability of farming in the State, including tax  
35 incentives for the utilization of best management practices associated with the  
36 improvement of water quality.

1 (g) On or before December 1, 2006, the Task Force shall report its preliminary  
2 findings and recommendations and, on or before October 1, 2007, the Task Force shall  
3 report its final findings and recommendations. The Task Force shall report both its  
4 preliminary and final findings and recommendations to the Speaker of the House, the  
5 President of the Senate, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House  
6 Environmental Matters Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the  
7 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Governor,  
8 in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

9 SECTION ~~13.~~ 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before  
10 December 31, 2006, the Department of Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land  
11 Preservation Foundation shall jointly adopt regulations for the administration of the  
12 certification of county priority preservation areas under § 5-408 of the State Finance  
13 and Procurement Article.

14 SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 June 1, 2006.