
By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request -
Departmental - Agriculture)**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Agriculture - Cost Sharing for Water Pollution Control**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the maximum amount of State cost sharing for water
4 pollution control.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article - Agriculture
7 Section 8-704
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Agriculture**

13 8-704.

14 (a) (1) State cost sharing in any project may be made available for up to 87
15 1/2 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed a dollar amount of up to [\$75,000] \$100,000
16 as determined by a regulation adopted jointly by the Secretary of Agriculture and the
17 Secretary of the Environment.

18 (2) State cost sharing funds may be made available for any project if:

19 (i) The Department of Agriculture, the soil conservation district,
20 and a person have executed an agreement which, among other things, obligates the
21 person to establish, construct, or install the best management practice in accordance
22 with technical specifications, to maintain the best management practice for its
23 expected life span, and to provide the required matching funds for the project;

24 (ii) The Board of Public Works has given approval to the project
25 when the proceeds of State bonds are to be used to finance the State share; and

1 (iii) The soil conservation district has certified to the Department
2 that the project meets all applicable technical standards, and that all submitted
3 invoices properly represent eligible costs.

4 (3) (i) 1. Except as authorized under sub-subparagraph 2 of this
5 subparagraph and before the Department of Agriculture executes a cost sharing
6 agreement with a farm tenant, it shall obtain the consent of the landlord to the terms
7 and conditions of the agreement.

8 2. The Department may execute the agreement without the
9 consent of the landlord if:

10 A. The agreement concerns a short-term project that
11 involves only the planting of a cover crop; and

12 B. The Department has sent by first-class mail written
13 notice of a cover crop project to the landlord at least 10 calendar days before executing
14 the agreement for the first cover crop project during the term of the lease.

15 (ii) The Department may also require the granting to the State of
16 an appropriate security interest in any equipment, structures or similar items
17 purchased with State moneys.

18 (4) A cost sharing agreement executed as required under this subtitle
19 may be assigned and transferred to a successor in title of all or part of a tract of land
20 subject to a best management practice.

21 (b) State cost sharing funds shall be disbursed, upon warrant of the
22 Comptroller, only after the Department has determined that the best management
23 practice has been established or in the case of equipment, structures, or similar items,
24 that it has been received and properly installed. Payment may be made either to the
25 person when the person has advanced money, or directly to a vendor or contractor in
26 accordance with the written agreement required by this section, or supplemental
27 written agreements with the vendor or contractor.

28 (c) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Environment
29 shall jointly promulgate rules and regulations to implement this subtitle. However,
30 rules and regulations solely involving internal management of the cost sharing
31 program need only be promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Department
32 of Natural Resources shall be consulted prior to any rule making effort to assure
33 coordination with its sediment control and related watershed programs.

34 (2) All rules and regulations promulgated under this section shall be
35 approved by the Board of Public Works prior to the use of the proceeds of State bonds
36 in the cost sharing program.

37 (3) The Department of Agriculture and the Department of the
38 Environment may enter into agreements with appropriate federal and local
39 governmental entities to assist in administering this subtitle.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
2 effect October 1, 2006.