
By: **Delegates Jennings, Cane, Cluster, Frush, Hogan, and Stull**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Agriculture - Maryland Agricultural Land Link Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Maryland Agricultural Land Link Program in the
4 Department of Agriculture for certain purposes; requiring the Department to
5 maintain a certain on-line database; requiring the Department to promote the
6 lease or sale of certain agricultural lands from farmers to farmers; requiring the
7 Department to provide certain farm succession and farm transfer assistance to
8 farmers; authorizing the Secretary to adopt certain regulations; and generally
9 relating to keeping agricultural land in active agricultural use.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Agriculture

12 Section 2-1201 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 12. Maryland Agricultural
13 Land Link Program"

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Agriculture**

19 **SUBTITLE 12. MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM.**

20 2-1201.

21 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
22 LAND LINK PROGRAM.

23 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM IN THE
24 DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

25 (1) ASSISTING OLDER OR RETIRING FARMERS IN THE STATE IN THE
26 LEASE OR SALE OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL LAND TO YOUNGER OR BEGINNING
27 FARMERS;

1 (2) KEEPING AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE STATE IN ACTIVE
2 AGRICULTURAL USE; AND

3 (3) REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE STATE
4 THAT IS LOST EACH YEAR TO DEVELOPMENT.

5 (C) UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

6 (1) MAINTAIN AN ON-LINE DATABASE CONSISTING OF:

7 (I) AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABLE FOR LEASE;

8 (II) AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABLE FOR SALE;

9 (III) ANY OTHER LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, LEASE,
10 OR SALE;

11 (IV) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL LESSORS, LESSEES, SELLERS,
12 AND BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND; AND

13 (V) INTERNSHIP, APPRENTICESHIP, EMPLOYMENT, AND BUSINESS
14 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS;

15 (2) PROMOTE THE LEASE OR SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM
16 RETIRING FARMERS TO BEGINNING FARMERS; AND

17 (3) PROVIDE FARM SUCCESSION AND FARM TRANSFER ASSISTANCE AND
18 RESOURCES TO FARMERS.

19 (D) THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
20 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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