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

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2006

CHAPTER _____

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, if
5 sufficient funds are provided in the annual budget, to maintain a certain on-line
6 database; ~~requiring the Department and~~ to promote the lease or sale of certain
7 agricultural lands from farmers to farmers; ~~requiring the Department to provide~~
8 ~~certain farm succession and farm transfer assistance to farmers; authorizing the~~
9 ~~Secretary to adopt certain regulations providing for a delayed effective date~~; and
10 generally ~~relating to keeping agricultural land in active agricultural use~~.
11 relating to the Maryland Land Link Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Agriculture

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

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

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

1

Article - Agriculture

2

SUBTITLE 12. MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM.

3 2-1201.

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

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

8 (1) ASSISTING OLDER OR RETIRING FARMERS IN THE STATE IN THE
9 LEASE OR SALE OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL LAND TO YOUNGER OR BEGINNING
10 FARMERS;

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

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

15 (C) UNDER THE PROGRAM, IF SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE PROVIDED IN THE
16 ANNUAL BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

17 (1) MAINTAIN AN ON-LINE DATABASE ~~CONSISTING OF TO SERVE AS AN~~
18 ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD FOR THE VOLUNTARY POSTING OF INFORMATION
19 ON;

20 (I) AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABLE FOR LEASE;

21 (II) AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABLE FOR SALE;

22 (III) ANY OTHER LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, LEASE,
23 OR SALE; AND

24 (IV) ~~CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL LESSORS, LESSEES, SELLERS,~~
25 ~~AND BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND; AND~~

26 ~~(V)~~ INTERNSHIP, APPRENTICESHIP, EMPLOYMENT, AND BUSINESS
27 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS; AND

28 (2) PROMOTE THE LEASE OR SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM
29 RETIRING FARMERS TO BEGINNING FARMERS; ~~AND~~

30 ~~(3) PROVIDE FARM SUCCESSION AND FARM TRANSFER ASSISTANCE AND~~
31 ~~RESOURCES TO FARMERS.~~

32 ~~(D) THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE~~
33 ~~PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 ~~October 1, 2006~~ July 1, 2007.