
By: **Delegates Rudolph, Bartlett, Bozman, Conway, Eckardt, Elliott, Elmore,
Glassman, Haddaway, Jameson, Kullen, Mayer, McComas, McKee,
Shank, Shewell, Smigiel, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Agricultural Ombudsman**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain agricultural ombudsman program in the
5 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Secretary of Health
6 and Mental Hygiene to designate an agricultural ombudsman; establishing
7 certain duties of the agricultural ombudsman; requiring the Secretary to adopt
8 certain regulations relating to the agricultural ombudsman program; and
9 generally relating to an agricultural ombudsman program.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Health - General

12 Section 2-104(o)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 2-104.

19 (O) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL
20 OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

21 (2) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE AN AGRICULTURAL
22 OMBUDSMAN.

23 (3) THE AGRICULTURAL OMBUDSMAN SHALL SERVE AS THE PRIMARY
24 POINT OF CONTACT FOR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE WHO INTERACT
25 WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL:

1 (I) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL
2 REGULATIONS RELATING TO ON-FARM FOOD PROCESSING, ON-FARM FOOD
3 PREPARATION, AND OTHER ON-FARM ACTIVITIES;

4 (II) ASSIST WITH EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH DEPARTMENTAL
5 REGULATIONS RELATING TO ON-FARM FOOD PROCESSING, ON-FARM FOOD
6 PREPARATION, AND OTHER ON-FARM ACTIVITIES;

7 (III) ASSIST WITH OBTAINING HEALTH PERMITS FROM THE
8 DEPARTMENT; AND

9 (IV) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO COORDINATE AND
10 STREAMLINE HEALTH PERMITS FOR FARMING AND ON-FARM ACTIVITIES.

11 (4) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE
12 OPERATION AND STAFFING OF THE AGRICULTURAL OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM.

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