

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators Miller, Hollinger, Middleton, Brinkley, Colburn, Conway,
Dyson, and Klausmeier**

Requested: November 15, 2005

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

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 the Governor
6 to appropriate certain funds to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based
7 Industry Development Corporation for certain easement and land acquisition
8 programs; requiring counties to include a priority preservation area element in
9 each county's comprehensive plan; requiring a priority preservation area to
10 meet certain criteria; requiring a certain acreage goal in a priority preservation
11 area; requiring an update of a county's comprehensive plan to include a certain
12 evaluation relating to priority preservation areas; requiring the Department of
13 Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to
14 certify priority preservation areas jointly; establishing a University of Maryland
15 Agricultural Internship Program at the University of Maryland, College Park;
16 providing that the internship is unpaid; requiring the Department of
17 Agriculture to adopt certain regulations; establishing a program for certification
18 of a county's priority preservation areas; establishing the application and
19 notification processes for certification of priority preservation areas; prohibiting
20 the certification for priority preservation areas unless the Department of
21 Planning and the Foundation agree that certain criteria are satisfied; specifying
22 eligibility for certain State funding; requiring the Department of Planning and
23 the Foundation to adopt certain regulations by a certain date; requiring the
24 Department of Planning and the Foundation to make a certain report; defining
25 certain terms; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor
26 make certain appropriations to the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost
27 Share Program, the Cover Crop Program, the Manure Transport Program, the
28 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, the Maryland
29 Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, the
30 Maryland Cooperative Extension, and certain State Soil Conservation Districts
31 under certain circumstances; encouraging the Department of Agriculture to
32 modify the Cover Crop Program for the harvest of certain cover crops for biofuel
33 production; supporting the promotion of agricultural education in the State;

1 requiring the University System of Maryland to conduct certain research;
2 requiring certain agencies to report to certain legislative committees on the
3 effectiveness of certain increases in funding after a certain period of time;
4 establishing an Incentives for Agriculture Task Force; providing for the
5 membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to review
6 certain reports and incentives; requiring the Task Force to identify new
7 incentives for farmers; requiring the Task Force to make a certain report; and
8 generally relating to agricultural stewardship in the State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
11 Section 13-513(c)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article 66B - Land Use
16 Section 1.03(a) and 3.05(a)(4)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article 66B - Land Use
21 Section 3.05(a)(1)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article - Agriculture
26 Section 2-518
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

29 BY adding to
30 Article - Education
31 Section 12-115
32 Annotated Code of Maryland
33 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

34 BY adding to
35 Article - State Finance and Procurement
36 Section 5-409
37 Annotated Code of Maryland
38 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 13-513.

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

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

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

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

14 (5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in order to assist
15 the Corporation in meeting the requirement specified in paragraph (4) of this
16 subsection, the Governor may include each year in the budget bill an appropriation to
17 the Corporation in an amount up to \$5,000,000 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
18 AND ASSISTANCE.

19 (ii) If the State has provided a combined and cumulative total of
20 \$12,000,000 or less in fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2010 to the Corporation
21 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE, the Governor may include
22 each year in the budget bill an appropriation to the Corporation in an amount up to
23 \$6,500,000 FOR RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE.

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

29 **Article 66B - Land Use**

30 1.03.

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

33 (i) A transportation plan element which shall:

34 1. Propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns for
35 the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for

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

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

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

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

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

14 3.05.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (iii) A transportation plan element which shall:

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

33 2. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian access and travelways;
34 and

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

- 1 (iv) A community facilities plan element, which:
- 2 1. Shall propose the most appropriate and desirable patterns
3 for the general location, character, and extent of public and semipublic buildings,
4 land, and facilities on a schedule that extends as far into the future as is reasonable;
5 and
- 6 2. May include parks and recreation areas, schools and other
7 educational and cultural facilities, libraries, churches, hospitals, social welfare and
8 medical facilities, institutions, fire stations, police stations, jails, or other public office
9 or administrative facilities;
- 10 (v) If current geological information is available, a mineral
11 resources plan element that:
- 12 1. Identifies undeveloped land that should be kept in its
13 undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a
14 continuous supply of minerals, as defined in § 15-801(i) of the Environment Article;
- 15 2. Identifies appropriate post-excavation uses for the land
16 that are consistent with the county's land planning process;
- 17 3. Incorporates land use policies and recommendations for
18 regulations:
- 19 A. To balance mineral resource extraction with other land
20 uses; and
- 21 B. To the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of
22 mineral resources extraction by other uses; and
- 23 4. Has been reviewed by the Department of the Environment
24 to determine whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of
25 the Department;
- 26 (vi) An element which shall contain the planning commission's
27 recommendation for land development regulations to implement the plan and which
28 encourages the following:
- 29 1. Streamlined review of applications for development,
30 including permit review and subdivision plat review within the areas designated for
31 growth in the plan;
- 32 2. The use of flexible development regulations to promote
33 innovative and cost-saving site design and protect the environment; and
- 34 3. Economic development in areas designated for growth in
35 the plan through the use of innovative techniques;

1 (vii) Recommendations for the determination, identification, and
2 designation of areas within the county that are of critical State concern; [and]

3 (viii) A sensitive area element that contains goals, objectives,
4 principles, policies, and standards designed to protect sensitive areas from the
5 adverse effects of development; AND

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

8 **Article - Agriculture**

9 2-518.

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

11 (B) A COUNTY SHALL INCLUDE A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT IN
12 THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

13 (C) AN AREA SHALL:

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

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

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

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

23 (D) AN AREA MAY:

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

26 (2) INCLUDE RURAL LEGACY AREAS.

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

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

33 (1) THE COUNTY'S PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS OF THE
34 FOUNDATION;

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

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

5 (G) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-409 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND
6 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE AND ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY
7 OF THAT SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND THE MARYLAND
8 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION SHALL JOINTLY CERTIFY AN
9 AREA.

10 **Article - Education**

11 12-115.

12 (A) THERE IS A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIP
13 PROGRAM.

14 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
15 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS TO:

16 (1) PROVIDE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND
17 NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK WITH AT
18 LEAST ONE SEMESTER OF HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WORKING ON A FARM IN THE
19 STATE;

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

21 (3) PROMOTE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE.

22 (C) THE INTERNSHIP SHALL BE UNPAID.

23 (D) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK OR THE DEAN OF THE
24 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
25 MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
26 AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

27 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

28 5-409.

29 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FOUNDATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
30 LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-502 OF THE
31 AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

32 (B) THERE IS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A PROGRAM FOR CERTIFICATION OF
33 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE
34 ARTICLE.

1 (C) (1) TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION, A COUNTY
2 SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AN APPLICATION IN
3 THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION JOINTLY REQUIRE BY
4 REGULATION.

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

8 (D) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION MAY NOT CERTIFY A PRIORITY
9 PRESERVATION AREA OF A COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
10 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION AGREE THAT THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE
11 PLAN:

12 (1) ESTABLISHES APPROPRIATE GOALS FOR THE AMOUNT AND TYPES
13 OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE LAND TO BE PRESERVED IN THE PRIORITY
14 PRESERVATION AREA;

15 (2) DESCRIBES THE KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THE
16 COUNTY INTENDS TO SUPPORT AND THE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT THE COUNTY
17 INTENDS TO ALLOW;

18 (3) INCLUDES MAPS SHOWING THE COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION
19 AREA;

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

22 (5) DESCRIBES THE WAY IN WHICH PRESERVATION GOALS WILL BE
23 ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, INCLUDING THE COUNTY'S
24 STRATEGY TO:

25 (I) PROTECT LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ZONING;

26 (II) PRESERVE THE DESIRED AMOUNT OF LAND WITH PERMANENT
27 EASEMENTS; AND

28 (III) MAINTAIN A RURAL ENVIRONMENT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING
29 THE KIND OF PRODUCTION INTENDED;

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

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

33 (II) ALLOW TIME FOR EASEMENT PURCHASE; AND

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

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

4 (8) DESCRIBES THE METHODS THE COUNTY WILL USE TO
5 CONCENTRATE PRESERVATION FUNDS AND OTHER SUPPORTING EFFORTS IN THE
6 PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE FOUNDATION AND
7 THE COUNTY'S ACREAGE PRESERVATION GOAL.

8 (E) IN CERTIFYING A COUNTY'S PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, THE
9 DEPARTMENT AND THE FOUNDATION SHALL ENSURE THAT:

10 (1) THE COUNTY HAS INCLUDED ALL THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY
11 SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND

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

14 (F) IF A COUNTY HAS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA THAT HAS BEEN
15 CERTIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE
16 FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENTS
17 WITHIN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

18 (G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2006, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
19 FOUNDATION JOINTLY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE
20 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

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

24 (1) THE GOVERNOR;

25 (2) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING;

26 (3) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE;

27 (4) THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
28 COMMITTEE; AND

29 (5) THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds
31 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an
32 additional \$7,000,000 per year for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost
33 Share Program for 5 consecutive fiscal years, for a total increase of \$35,000,000 over
34 the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation. It is also the intent of the General Assembly
35 that the increased level of funding be continued in future fiscal years.

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

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

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

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

37 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent that funds
38 are available, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor provide an
39 additional \$2,000,000 in annual funding over the fiscal 2006 legislative appropriation
40 for the Maryland Cooperative Extension at the University of Maryland. It is the
41 intent of the General Assembly that this funding be used to support additional staff to
42 provide enhanced technical assistance on best management practices to farmers and
43 to reestablish a soil testing laboratory in the State. It is also the intent of the General
44 Assembly that the funding for the Maryland Cooperative Extension not be reduced by
45 the University of Maryland.

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

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

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

13 (a) Develop poultry feeds that reduce the amount of ammonia in chicken
14 excreta;

15 (b) Improve poultry litter use in no-till cropping practices;

16 (c) Determine how much poultry litter is produced and how much can be
17 land-applied in an environmentally sensitive manner; and

18 (d) Find alternative uses for excess poultry litter.

19 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any of the programs
20 under this Act receive an increase in funding in accordance with the provisions of this
21 Act, the affected agencies shall report to the House Appropriations Committee, the
22 House Environmental Matters Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation
23 Committee, and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
24 after 3 consecutive fiscal years of increased funding, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
25 the State Government Article, on the impact of such increased funding on the
26 effectiveness of the programs.

27 SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (4) one member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
2 Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

3 (5) the following seven members, appointed by the Governor:

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

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

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

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

8 (v) one representative from agri-business;

9 (vi) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Maryland
10 Agricultural Commission; and

11 (vii) one farmer in the State who is also a member of the Young
12 Farmer's Advisory Board.

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

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

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

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

24 (2) study existing tax incentives related to farming; and

25 (3) identify any new or additional tax incentives that would help farmers
26 to be better stewards of the land while maintaining the economic viability of farming
27 in the State.

28 (g) On or before December 1, 2006, the Task Force shall report its findings and
29 recommendations to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the House
30 Ways and Means Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, the
31 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Education, Health, and
32 Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Governor, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
33 the State Government Article.

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