

HOUSE BILL 1041

M4

7lr1076

By: **Delegate Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund – Grants to Counties**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation
4 Foundation to make grants to counties from the Maryland Agricultural Land
5 Preservation Fund under certain circumstances; prohibiting the counties from
6 using the grants except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
7 the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Agriculture
10 Section 2–505(c)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Agriculture**

16 2–505.

17 (c) (1) The Comptroller of the Treasury may not disburse any money from
18 the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund other than:

19 (i) For costs associated with the staffing and administration of
20 the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) For reasonable expenses incurred by the members of the board of trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in the performance of official duties; and

(iii) For consideration in the purchase of agricultural land preservation easements beginning with fiscal year 1979 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) (i) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation may provide grants to the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation to facilitate the purchase of easements, subject to conditions jointly agreed upon by the Foundation and the Corporation.

(ii) The Corporation may only use these grants for expenses related to:

1. Facilitating the purchase of easements under the critical farms or installment purchase agreement programs; or

2. The Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program.

(3) (I) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO COUNTIES TO FACILITATE THE PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS JOINTLY AGREED ON BY THE FOUNDATION AND THE COUNTY.

(II) A COUNTY MAY ONLY USE THESE GRANTS FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION EASEMENTS THAT:

1. MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

2. USE A COUNTY INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE FOUNDATION UNDER § 2-510.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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