

SENATE BILL 118

M4

2lr0006

By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Agriculture)**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voluntary Agricultural Nutrient and Sediment Credit Certification Program**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Department of Agriculture to establish
4 requirements for the voluntary certification and registration of sediment credits
5 on agricultural land under the Voluntary Agricultural Nutrient Credit
6 Certification Program; clarifying the authority of the Department of the
7 Environment to establish eligibility and other requirements for use of sediment
8 offset credits under any State or federal permit or other regulatory program;
9 altering the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the
10 establishment of voluntary agricultural sediment credit certification and
11 registration requirements.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Agriculture

14 Section 8–901, 8–902, and 8–904 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 9.

15 Voluntary Agricultural Nutrient and Sediment Credit Certification
16 Program”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article – Agriculture

21 Section 8–903

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
3 Chapter 447 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010
4 Section 2

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Chapter 447 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010
7 Section 3

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

10 **Article – Agriculture**

11 Subtitle 9. Voluntary Agricultural Nutrient **AND SEDIMENT** Credit Certification
12 Program.

13 8–901.

14 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

15 (1) Voluntary nutrient **AND SEDIMENT** trading programs provide an
16 innovative and cost-effective approach to enhance water and air quality and achieve
17 additional water and air quality benefits; and

18 (2) The Agricultural Nutrient **AND SEDIMENT** Credit Certification
19 Program established under this subtitle authorizes the Department to verify, certify,
20 and register agricultural nutrient **OR SEDIMENT** credits in support of private and
21 public nutrient **OR SEDIMENT** trading activities between the buyer of nutrient **OR**
22 **SEDIMENT** credits and the farm owner or operator that agrees to be paid and
23 implement best management practices to reduce agricultural nutrient **AND**
24 **SEDIMENT** runoff and **NUTRIENT** emissions.

25 8–902.

26 (a) The Department may establish requirements for the voluntary
27 certification and registration of nutrient **OR SEDIMENT** credits on agricultural land,
28 as defined by the Department of Assessments and Taxation.

29 (b) Certification and registration requirements established under subsection
30 (a) of this section shall include:

31 (1) Application and eligibility requirements for certification;

