

Chapter 644

**(Senate Bill 571)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Use of Land – Signs and Outdoor Advertising Displays**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a landowner, without the approval of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, to erect and display on land subject to a certain easement a certain sign or outdoor advertising display for a certain purpose; authorizing the Foundation to authorize a landowner to erect and display on land subject to a certain easement a certain sign or outdoor advertising display for the purpose of providing certain information; providing that this Act supersedes certain provisions of a certain deed or agreement; providing that this Act does not supersede certain local laws or ordinances; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the use of land subject to an agricultural preservation easement.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Agriculture  
Section 2–513(b)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Agriculture  
Section 2–513(b)(11)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

**Article – Agriculture**

2–513.

(b) (1) A landowner whose land is subject to an easement may not use the land for any commercial, industrial, or residential purpose except:

(i) As determined by the Foundation, for farm– and forest–related uses and home occupations; or

(ii) As otherwise provided under this section.

**(11) (i) A LANDOWNER MAY, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE FOUNDATION, ERECT AND DISPLAY ON LAND SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE A SIGN OR ANY OTHER OUTDOOR ADVERTISING DISPLAY MEASURING NOT MORE THAN 4 FEET BY 4 FEET FOR THE PURPOSE OF:**

- 1. STATING THE NAME OR ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OR ITS OCCUPANT;**
- 2. ADVERTISING ANY FARM- OR FOREST-RELATED USES OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY HOME OCCUPATIONS THAT OCCUR ON THE PROPERTY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE FOUNDATION;**
- 3. ADVERTISING THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES OF THE FOUNDATION;**
- 4. ADVERTISING THAT THE PROPERTY IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE OR RENT;**
- 5. FORBIDDING TRESPASSING, HUNTING, OR THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY;**
- 6. MARKING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY;**
- 7. IDENTIFYING THE PROTECTED STATUS OF THE PROPERTY; OR**
- 8. SUPPORTING A POLITICAL CANDIDATE.**

**(ii) THE FOUNDATION MAY AUTHORIZE A LANDOWNER TO ERECT AND DISPLAY ON LAND SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE A SIGN OR ANY OTHER OUTDOOR ADVERTISING DISPLAY MEASURING NOT MORE THAN 4 FEET BY 4 FEET FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ANY OTHER INFORMATION CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FOUNDATION.**

**(iii) THIS PARAGRAPH:**

- 1. SUPERSEDES ANY INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS OF A DEED OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT GRANTING AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**
- 2. DOES NOT SUPERSEDE ANY LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE GOVERNING SIGNS OR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING DISPLAYS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect agricultural preservation easements granted to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

**Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.**