

Chapter 284

(House Bill 860)

AN ACT concerning

State Planning – Preservation of Agricultural Land – Goal

FOR the purpose of establishing a State goal of preserving a certain amount of productive agricultural land by a certain year through certain programs; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the preservation of agricultural land.

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 5–7A–03
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

5–7A–03.

THE STATE HAS A GOAL OF PRESERVING A TOTAL OF 1,030,000 ACRES OF PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND BY 2030 THROUGH:

(1) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION;

(2) THE MARYLAND GREENPRINT PROGRAM;

(3) THE RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM;

(4) THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST; ~~AND~~

(5) THE NEXT GENERATION FARMLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM;

AND

~~(5)~~ (6) LOCAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that this Act shall be construed as extending the deadline to meet the State’s

agricultural land preservation goal set under Joint Resolutions 16 and 17 of the Acts of 2002, from 2022 to 2030, and to include acres preserved through the Maryland Environmental Trust and the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program as contributing toward the goal.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.