

# HOUSE BILL 389

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3lr2332  
CF SB 34

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By: Delegates T. Morgan, Bagnall, Crosby, Griffith, Hartman, D. Jones, Love, M. Morgan, Rose, and ~~Ziegler~~ Ziegler, Addison, Baker, Boyce, Ciliberti, Foley, Guyton, Healey, Holmes, Jacobs, Lehman, Nawrocki, Otto, Ruth, Stewart, and Terrasa

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Agriculture – State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added**  
3 **Agriculture**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added  
5 Agriculture as a position in the Department of Agriculture; and generally relating to  
6 the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Agriculture  
9 Section 2–106  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Agriculture  
14 Section 2–2201 and 2–2202 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 22. State  
15 ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture”  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

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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.



**Article – Agriculture**

2–106.

(a) The following positions and units are included within the Department:

- (1) The Maryland Agricultural Fair Board;
- (2) The Chief of Weights and Measures;
- (3) The State Chemist;
- (4) The State Veterinarian;
- (5) The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners;
- (6) The State Soil Conservation Committee;
- (7) The Maryland Agricultural Commission;
- (8) The Maryland Horse Industry Board;
- (9) The Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board; [and]
- (10) The Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission; AND

**(11) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.**

(b) The Secretary shall appoint the State Chemist, State Veterinarian, **STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE**, and Chief of Weights and Measures.

(c) The Department also includes any other position or unit which is declared within the Department pursuant to law.

**SUBTITLE 22. STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.**

**2–2201.**

**IN THIS SUBTITLE, “VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE”:**

**(1) MEANS THE ALTERATION OR ENHANCEMENT OF A RAW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT, INCLUDING LIVESTOCK, OR AN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

1 IN A WAY THAT INCREASES THE ~~PRODUCT'S~~ PRODUCT OR SERVICE'S WORTH TO A  
2 CONSUMER AND BRINGS MORE REVENUE TO A FARMER, PRODUCER, OR PROCESSOR;  
3 AND

4 (2) INCLUDES ALL ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDING  
5 EQUINE ACTIVITIES, IN WHICH AN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OR THE  
6 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS'S PRODUCTS OR SERVICES ARE ALTERED, MARKETED,  
7 PRODUCED, OR PROCESSED IN A WAY THAT ADDS INCOME TO A FARMER, PRODUCER,  
8 OR PROCESSOR.

9 2-2202.

10 (A) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED  
11 AGRICULTURE SHALL:

12 (1) SERVE AS THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR INDIVIDUALS  
13 ENGAGING IN, OR INTERESTED IN ENGAGING IN, VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE IN  
14 THE STATE;

15 (2) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING STATE AND FEDERAL  
16 REGULATIONS RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE;

17 (3) ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS  
18 INVOLVED IN VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE; AND

19 (4) PERFORM ANY OTHER DUTY OR FUNCTION THAT SUPPORTS  
20 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE, AS REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY.

21 (B) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED  
22 AGRICULTURE SHALL RECEIVE A SALARY AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a Position Identification  
24 Number (PIN) shall be created in the Department of Agriculture for the State ~~Ombudsman~~  
25 Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, during the first year after  
27 the initial appointment of the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture,  
28 the priority function of the ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist is to focus on implementing the  
29 recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Return to State Meat Process  
30 Inspection.

31 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 October 1, 2023.