



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

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### Legislative Comment

**Date:** April 1, 2021

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 737  
**SHORT TITLE:** Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act  
**MDA POSITION:** Support

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Senate Bill 737 impacts sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland through the Articles of Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources, and State Finance and Procurement. The information provided here relates solely to the impact on the Department of Agriculture, specifically page 5 of the bill.

This bill adds language in the Agriculture Article Title 8, Subtitle 7, Cost Sharing – Water Pollution Control section that specifically allows landowners to participate in certain types of cost-sharing programs that provide compensation through greenhouse gas markets, carbon credits, or soil carbon programs. With the amendment to the Agriculture section of the bill, the bill no longer impacts any other Departmental contract, easement, or agreement outside of the Cost Sharing Program.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at [cassie.shirk@maryland.gov](mailto:cassie.shirk@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5886.