

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 20-02

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Establishment of the Queen Anne's County Farmland Preservation Fund;

FOR THE PURPOSE of safeguarding the vital industry of agriculture in Queen Anne's County; preserving more County farmland through enhanced participation in the programs of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF); and permanently allocating certain tax revenues to a new Farmland Preservation Fund;

BY ADOPTING a new Section 5-32 to Article IX of Chapter 5 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that a new Section 5-32 of Article IX of Chapter 5 of the Code of Public Local Laws be and is hereby ADOPTED to read as follows:

§5-32. Queen Anne's County Farmland Preservation Fund.

A. The County shall maintain a Farmland Preservation Fund for the purpose of providing additional funds to enhance County participation in the programs of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. The funds comprising the Farmland Preservation Fund shall not be allocated to the County general fund or used for any purpose other than farmland preservation.

B. All operating personal property tax revenue received by the County pursuant to Section 5-31 of this Article shall be paid into the Farmland Preservation Fund, however, at such time as the Farmland Preservation Fund shall reach a balance of One Million Dollars, such revenue shall be paid into the general funds of the County, it being the intent that the Farmland Preservation Fund be funded and replenished to a maximum balance of One

Million Dollars.

C. The MALPF local program administrator for Queen Anne's County is delegated the authority to expend funds from the Farmland Preservation Fund for participation in the MALPF matching funds program, subject to the direction and approval of the County Commissioners. The County Finance Director shall, at the time of submission of the comprehensive annual financial report, include information detailing the status of the Farmland Preservation Fund.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46th) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Moran

DATE: February 11, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: March 10, 2020 @ 6 pm

VOTE: 4 Yea            1 Nay            (Commissioner S. Wilson abstained)

DATE OF ADOPTION: June 9, 2020

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 2020