

19 (b).

Lands which are actively devoted to farm or agricultural use shall be assessed on the basis of such use, and shall not be assessed as if subdivided, it being the intent of the General Assembly that the assessment of farm land shall be maintained at levels compatible with the continued use of such land for farming and shall not be adversely affected by neighboring land uses of a more intensive nature. The General Assembly hereby declares it to be in the general public interest that farming be fostered and encouraged in order to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the State, to encourage the preservation of open space as an amenity necessary to human welfare and happiness, and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation shall establish criteria for the purpose of determining whether lands which appear to be actively devoted to farm or agricultural use are in fact bona fide farms and qualify for assessment under this subsection. Such criteria shall be promulgated in rules and regulations which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (1) *Zoning applicable to the land.*
- (2) *Present and past use of the land including land under the soil bank provisions of the Agricultural Stabilization Act of the United States government.*
- (3) *Productivity of the land including timberlands and lands used for reforestation.*
- (4) *The ratio of farm or agricultural use as against other uses of the land.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1961.*

Approved April 24, 1961.

CHAPTER 456

(House Bill 393)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 1 of Article 10 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Attorneys at Law and Attorneys in Fact", sub-title "Admission to the Bar", adding to the list of specified persons who are to be deemed attorneys at law for the purposes of said Article 10, any person who gives advice in the administration or probate of estates

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.