

assessed for agricultural use and when the tax on such contingent assessment shall be paid, to authorize counties to allow lands to be put in reservation as open spaces and give special assessment and taxation considerations for these reserved lands, and to establish an Agricultural Assessment Commission to hear appeals on the assessment or non-assessment of lands for agricultural use, and generally dealing with the agricultural use assessment laws of Maryland. TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER OF ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS OF LANDS, FOR THE TAXES DUE ON SUCH ASSESSMENTS, AND RELATING GENERALLY TO ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT LANDS IN THIS STATE.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 19 (b) of Article 81 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Revenue and Taxes," subtitle "Method of Assessment," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments; that new Section 19 (f) be and it is hereby added to said Article, title, and subtitle of said Code, to follow immediately after Section 19 (e); and that new Section 256A be and it is hereby added to said Article and title of said Code, subtitle "Appeals," to follow immediately after Section 256 thereof, and AND ALL to read as follows:*

19 (b).

*(1) Lands which are actively devoted to farm or agricultural use and are either unzoned or zoned for 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.*

*(2) Lands which are actively devoted to farm or agricultural use that are zoned or otherwise identified for a more intensive use by a local zoning agency or in a master plan as provided for in Article 66B of this Code, shall be taxed under an assessment on the basis of the agricultural use. A deferred assessment based on fair market value shall also be recorded on such lands. This deferred assessment shall be subject to the same notice and appeal requirement as the agricultural use assessment.*

*Upon the filing of a subdivision plat or the sale of a lot from a subdivision plat, whether or not it is recorded, or the conversion of a portion of the land to a non-agricultural use, the agricultural use assessment shall terminate on that portion of the land subdivided or sold, and a tax shall become due on that portion equal to the difference between the agricultural assessment tax paid during the period the deferred assessment is recorded and a tax based on the total deferred assessment recorded, except that in no event shall this tax exceed the total difference of the taxes paid on that portion for the immediately previous three years and a tax based on the deferred assessment recorded for those three years or five percent of the current market value of that portion, whichever is the lesser. The tax shall be collected by the county treasurer or tax collector's office and the proceeds shall be distributed to the government of the county in which the land is located.*