

Article - Agriculture

2-505.

(c) (1) The Comptroller of the Treasury may not disburse any money from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund other than:

[(1)](I) For costs associated with the staffing and administration of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation;

[(2)](II) For reasonable expenses incurred by the members of the board of trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in the performance of official duties; and

[(3)](III) For consideration in the purchase of agricultural land preservation easements beginning with fiscal year 1979 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) (I) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO FACILITATE THE PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS JOINTLY AGREED UPON BY THE FOUNDATION AND THE CORPORATION.

(II) THE CORPORATION MAY ONLY USE THESE GRANTS FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO:

1. FACILITATING THE PURCHASE OF EASEMENTS UNDER THE CRITICAL FARMS OR INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAMS; OR

2. THE NEXT GENERATION FARMLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.

2-518.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "AREA" MEANS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

(B) A COUNTY ~~SHALL~~ MAY INCLUDE A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ELEMENT IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

(C) AN AREA SHALL:

(1) (I) CONTAIN PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST SOILS; OR

(II) BE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY ENTERPRISES WHERE PRODUCTIVE SOILS ARE LACKING;

(2) BE GOVERNED BY LOCAL POLICIES THAT STABILIZE THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND BASE SO THAT DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT CONVERT OR COMPROMISE AGRICULTURAL OR FOREST RESOURCES; AND

(3) BE LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE KIND OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS THAT THE COUNTY SEEKS TO PRESERVE, AS REPRESENTED IN ITS ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.