

(2) "AGRICULTURAL BUILDING" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PLACE OF HUMAN RESIDENCE.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO CALVERT COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, DORCHESTER COUNTY, FREDERICK COUNTY, HARFORD COUNTY, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, ~~AND~~ ST. MARY'S COUNTY, SOMERSET COUNTY, AND TALBOT COUNTY.

(C) THE STANDARDS DO NOT APPLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, OR MODIFICATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING ~~TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF TOURISM~~ FOR WHICH AGRITOURISM IS AN INTENDED SUBORDINATE USE.

(D) AN EXISTING AGRICULTURAL BUILDING USED FOR ~~TOURISM~~ AGRITOURISM IS NOT CONSIDERED AS A CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY THAT REQUIRES A BUILDING PERMIT IF THE SUBORDINATE USE OF AGRITOURISM:

(1) IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(2) OCCUPIES ONLY LEVELS OF THE BUILDING ON WHICH A GROUND LEVEL EXIT IS LOCATED; AND

(3) DOES NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE TO OCCUPY AN INDIVIDUAL BUILDING AT ANY ONE TIME.

(E) AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING USED FOR ~~TOURISM~~ AGRITOURISM:

(1) SHALL BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND AND IN GOOD REPAIR; BUT

(2) NEED NOT COMPLY WITH:

(I) REQUIREMENTS FOR BATHROOMS, SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, AND ELEVATORS SET FORTH IN THE STANDARDS; OR

(II) ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS OR OTHER BUILDING CODES AS SET FORTH IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly encourages the University of Maryland, through the Maryland Cooperative Extension Services, to develop an educational program that focuses on liability issues for farmers that have farms engaged in agritourism.

SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401