

CHAPTER 161

(House Bill 180)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Agriculture – Maryland Agricultural Land Link Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a Maryland Agricultural Land Link Program in the Department of Agriculture for certain purposes; requiring the Department, if sufficient funds are provided in the annual budget, to maintain a certain on-line database; ~~requiring the Department and~~ to promote the lease or sale of certain agricultural lands from farmers to farmers; ~~requiring the Department to provide certain farm succession and farm transfer assistance to farmers; authorizing the Secretary to adopt certain regulations providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to keeping agricultural land in active agricultural use; relating to the Maryland Land Link Program.~~

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 2–1201 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Maryland Agricultural Land Link Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

SUBTITLE 12. MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM.

2–1201.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND LINK PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

(1) ASSISTING OLDER OR RETIRING FARMERS IN THE STATE IN THE LEASE OR SALE OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL LAND TO YOUNGER OR BEGINNING FARMERS;

(2) KEEPING AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE STATE IN ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL USE; AND

(3) REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE STATE THAT IS LOST EACH YEAR TO DEVELOPMENT.