

~~certain farms; requiring a county to determine if a property qualifies for the Program in accordance with certain criteria developed by the Foundation and the Department; authorizing the Foundation and the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Foundation to conduct a certain study and develop certain criteria for county governments to use to qualify certain property for the Program, and examine financing options for easement acquisition under the Program, and to submit a certain report and legislative proposal on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a Critical Farms Program.~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and the Department of Planning to establish a Critical Farms Program to provide certain financing for the acquisition of certain agricultural preservation easements on certain farms; requiring a county to determine if a property qualifies for the Program in accordance with certain criteria developed by the Foundation and the Department; requiring the Foundation and the Department to examine options for easement acquisition and identify options that will enable the Program to succeed; authorizing the Foundation and the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Foundation and the Department to conduct a certain study and submit a certain report, including a certain proposed legislation on or before a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date for certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to a Critical Farms Program.

BY adding to

Article - Agriculture

Section 2-517

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Agriculture

Section 2-517

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

Article - Agriculture

2-517.

(A) (1) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SHALL ESTABLISH A CRITICAL FARMS PROGRAM.