

Approved April 9, 2002.

**CHAPTER 35**

**(House Bill 143)**

AN ACT concerning

**St. Mary's County - Right to Farm**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to adopt an ordinance or regulation or take other action to protect a person's right to farm or engage in agricultural or forestry operations; requiring the County Commissioners to hold a public hearing and provide reasonable notice of the hearing before adopting an ordinance or regulation; and generally relating to the authority of the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to protect a person's right to farm.

BY adding to

The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County

Section 108-1 to be under the new chapter "Chapter 108 Right to Farm"

Article 19 - Public Local Laws of Maryland

(1987 Edition and 2001 Supplement, as amended)

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

**Article 19 - St. Mary's County**

**CHAPTER 108**

**RIGHT TO FARM**

108-1.

A. SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR REGULATION OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONSIDER NECESSARY TO PROTECT A PERSON'S RIGHT TO FARM OR ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURAL OR FORESTRY OPERATIONS.

B. BEFORE ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE OR REGULATION UNDER SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND PROVIDE REASONABLE NOTICE OF THE HEARING.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved April 9, 2002.