

CHAPTER 200

(House Bill 91)

AN ACT concerning

State Agricultural Mediation Program

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a federally certified State agricultural mediation program for a certain purpose; authorizing the Secretary to adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Secretary to establish certain qualifications for certain persons, enter certain contracts, and receive certain grants; making certain records confidential under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of a federally certified State agricultural mediation program.

BY adding to

Article - Agriculture

Section 1-1A-01 through 1-1A-04, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 1A. Agricultural Mediation Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

Article - Agriculture

SUBTITLE 1A. AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM.

1-1A-01.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION" MEANS A VOLUNTARY PROCESS IN WHICH A MEDIATOR HELPS PRIVATE PARTIES OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESOLVE AGRICULTURALLY RELATED DISPUTES IN A CONFIDENTIAL AND NONADVERSARIAL SETTING.

(C) "MEDIATOR" MEANS AN IMPARTIAL PERSON WHO IS TRAINED TO HELP PEOPLE FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO SHARED PROBLEMS AND HAS NO POWER TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION.

1-1A-02.

(A) THE SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH A FEDERALLY CERTIFIED STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.