HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 24-002 (As Amended)

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BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 24-002 (As Amended) having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on March 14, 2024.

APPROVED: Date

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 13, 2024

COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 24-002 (As Amended)

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of	f the County Executive
Legislative Day No. Date 24-005	Date February 6, 2024

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation and Purchase of Development Rights Program, of Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to change the name of the program to the "Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation Program"; to repeal and reenact with amendments, Section 60-9 entitled, "Purpose and intent." of the same Article II, Chapter 60 to amend the purpose and intent of the program with regard to the purchasing of development potential and the zoning of property eligible for the program; to repeal and reenact Section 69-10 entitled, "Definitions." by revising the definition of "Agricultural Land" and using that definition throughout this section of the Harford County Code; by adding the definitions of "Density" and "Development potential"; to revise the definition of "Development Right/Density Value Cap" and "Easement Priority Ranking (EPR)"; to add a new definition of "Final Easement Offer," "Formula Value," "Homeowners' Association," "Major Stream," "Minor Stream," "Per Acre Value Cap," and "Valuation Number"; to repeal and reenact Section 60-12, of the same Article and Chapter, entitled, "Agricultural preservation easement" to amend its title for consistency and to clarify what types of uses are not permitted on preserved property, to require all parcels and/or lots included within the easement be consolidated prior to settlement, to allow exemptions to the requirement for a soil and water conservation plan, to revise and clarify the size, soil, and ownership criteria, to revise the requirements necessary to exclude lots under the easement, to clarify the value of the easement, to revise the provisions and requirements regarding adding land to an existing easement, to revise the provisions and requirements regarding agricultural subdivision, to revise the use, location, size, soil, ownership and development potential criteria for agricultural preservation districts, to revise the requirements regarding inspections on property in the program, to allow for the enforcement of any violation of Chapter 60, and to add guidelines and standards for review; and, generally relating to Agricultural Preservation.

By the Council, February 6, 2024
Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled:
on: March 5, 2024
at: 6:45 PM

	Mylin	<i>f.</i>].	Dixon	
By Order:	0			, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on <u>March 5, 2024</u>, and concluded on <u>March 5, 2024</u>.

Mylin A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. <u>Underlining</u> indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

- 1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-
- 9 of Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
- 3 Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and
- 4 reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:
- 5 Chapter 60. Agriculture
- 6 Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
- 7 § 60-9. Purpose and intent.
- 8 The purpose of the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development
- 9 Rights] Program is to preserve productive agricultural land and woodland which provides for the
- 10 continued production of food, [and] fiber, AND FOREST PRODUCTS for [the] ALL citizens of the
- 11 County AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR EQUITY PAID TO
- 12 LANDOWNERS FOR PRESERVING THEIR LAND. SECONDARILY, CITIZENS
- 13 COUNTYWIDE BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM WITH A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO
- 14 SUBURBAN SPRAWL; BY PROTECTING OPEN SPACE, WETLAND, STREAM AND RIVER
- 15 BUFFERS, AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS, FOREST CANOPY, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT
- 16 CORRIDORS; AND LIMITING THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES SUCH AS
- 17 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS, POLICE, LIBRARY AND OTHER SERVICES THAT WOULD BE
- 18 REQUIRED IF THESE LANDS WERE DEVELOPED. This program is to be administered by the
- 19 Department of Planning and Zoning and the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation
- 20 Advisory Board. LAND WITHIN INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES SHALL NOT BE
- 21 ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM.
- 22 The program focuses on the purchasing of development [rights and family conveyances]
- 23 POTENTIAL, from agricultural landowners and retiring [those rights] THAT POTENTIAL in

- perpetuity. If the development [rights] POTENTIAL [are] IS purchased by the program, an easement
- 2 is placed on the property. Under this easement, all future residential subdivision of the property is
- 3 restricted except for owner/child lots [as] OR AS OTHERWISE permitted under this program.
- 4 ADDITIONALLY, FUTURE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND
- 5 INSTITUTIONAL USES ARE RESTRICTED BY THE EASEMENT EXCEPT THOSE
- 6 ASSOCIATED WITH AN AGRICULTURAL USE AND AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 267-
- 7 73 (AGRICULTURAL/COMMERCIAL) OF THE HARFORD COUNTY ZONING CODE, AS
- 8 AMENDED. This is a voluntary program that permits any owner of agricultural land which meets
- 9 the minimum qualifying criteria listed in Section 60-12 of this article to apply to sell their
- development [rights and family conveyances] POTENTIAL.
- 11 This program also allows any owner of agricultural land which meets the minimum qualifying
- criteria listed in [§]SECTION 60-12 of this article to apply to donate their development [rights and
- family conveyances] POTENTIAL and have an easement placed on their property under the same
- terms and provisions contained in this article.
- 15 Section 2. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-
- 16 10 of Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
- 17 Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and
- reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:
- 19 Chapter 60. Agriculture
- 20 Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
- 21 **§ 60-10. Definitions.**
- As used in this article, the following words have the meanings indicated:
- 23 [AGRICULTURAL LAND
- Land used primarily for agriculture with an agricultural zoning classification as identified on

1	the most recently approved Harford County Zoning Maps.]
2	AGRICULTURAL LAND
3	LAND WITH A PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL USE, INCLUDING WOODLAND.
4	AGRICULTURAL USE
5	Any use of land which directly contributes to the production, processing or storage of
6	agricultural products as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, including
7	uses currently permitted within the Agricultural District of the Harford County Zoning Code
8	that are directly related to agricultural activities.
9	AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT
10	A minimum 5 year conservation easement in which no monetary value has been exchanged
11	for its placement on the land.
12	AGRICULTURAL OVERLAY DISTRICT
13	ANY PROPERTY ZONED OTHER THAN AG (AGRICULTURAL) THAT ENTERS
14	INTO AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL
15	LAWS APPLICABLE TO AG (AGRICULTURAL) ZONED PROPERTIES UNTIL THE
16	NEXT COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REVIEW, DURING WHICH SAID PROPERTY
17	SHALL BE REZONED TO AG (AGRICULTURAL) AT THE REQUEST OF THE
18	COUNTY.
9	BASE MULTIPLIER VALUE
20	A FACTOR UTILIZED IN THE VALUATION WORKSHEET TO CONVERT THE
21	VALUATION NUMBER TO A DOLLAR VALUE.
22	[BASE MULTIPLICATION EASEMENT VALUE
3	A multiplication factor applied to the valuation worksheet results to produce a per acre price.

1	CHILD
2	Natural or adopted child of the landowner.
3	CHILD'S LOT
4	A lot of 2 acres or less, designed for the exclusive residential use of a child of the landowner
5	of record at the time [of easement sale]THE DEED OF EASEMENT IS RECORDED.
6	COMMITMENT LETTER
7	An offer made in writing, from the County to the applicant of record, specifying the ranking
8	of the property and monetary value being offered for the proposed easement.
9	DENSITY
10	THE NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS PERMITTED PER ACRE OF LAND
11	REMAINING ON THE PROPERTY AS VERIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
12	PLANNING & ZONING.
13	DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
14	THE ABILITY TO CONVERT LAND TO ANY NON-AGRICULTURAL USE, IN
15	ACCORDANCE WITH THE ZONING CODE, BEYOND THE USES EXISTING AT
16	THE TIME THE COUNTY MAKES AN OFFER TO PURCHASE AN EASEMENT
17	DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO
18	DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS, FAMILY CONVEYANCES, DENSITY, COMMERCIAL,
19	INDUSTRIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
20	DEVELOPMENT RIGHT
21	The ability to create a residential lot as permitted under the existing agricultural zoning
22	classification.

[DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS] EASEMENT

1	An encumbrance upon the land which restricts the owner's rights to develop or otherwise
2	use the land for purposes other than agricultural uses.
3	EASEMENT PRIORITY RANKING (EPR)
4	The criteria used to rank applications submitted to the Agricultural Land Preservation [and
5	Purchase of Development Rights] Program.
6	FAMILY CONVEYANCE
7	A permitted lot for any member of the immediate family of the owner of record as of
8	February 8, 1977. Immediate family shall be limited to fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters,
9	sons, and daughters.
0	FINAL EASEMENT OFFER
1	VALUE OF THE EASEMENT OFFERED TO A LANDOWNER WHICH SHALL BE
2	THE LESSER OF THE THREE VALUE CALCULATIONS INCLUDING THE
3	FORMULA VALUE, RESIDENTIAL DENSITY VALUE CAP, PER ACRE VALUE
4	CAP.
5	FORMULA VALUE
6	THE TOTAL VALUATION NUMBER MULTIPLIED BY THE BASE MULTIPLIER TO
7	ESTABLISH A PRICE PER ACRE AS DERIVED FROM THE VALUATION
8	WORKSHEET.
9	HARFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
20	A 5 member board appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.
1	HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
2	AN ASSOCIATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY COMPRISED OF OWNERS OF
3	LAND OR DWELLINGS, ORGANIZED TO OWN, OPERATE OR MAINTAIN OPEN

1	SPACE OR FACILITIES USED IN COMMON BY SUCH OWNERS.
2	INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT (IPA)
3	A written agreement between Harford County and the landowner of record at the time of
4	easement sale that pays the landowner over a 10, 20, or 30 year time frame, as agreed upon
5	by the County and landowner, for the placement of a conservation easement on their
6	property.
7	LANDOWNER
8	An individual(s) who is the owner of record OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN HARFORD
9	COUNTY AT THE TIME THE DEED OF EASEMENT IS RECORDED[, or any entity
0	which is the owner of record]. IF THE OWNER OF RECORD AT THE TIME THE DEED
1	OF EASEMENT IS RECORDED IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL, THEN THE
2	DEPARTMENT SHALL SPECIFY IN THE DEED OF EASEMENT THE
3	INDIVIDUAL(S) WHO HAVE THE RIGHT TO CREATE AN OWNER'S LOT OR
4	CHILD'S LOT HEREUNDER. [an entity shall include those individuals who were members
5	of the entity at the time the deed of easement was recorded.]
6	LOCATION INCENTIVE PAYMENT
7	A ONE-TIME CASH INCENTIVE PAYMENT PAID TO THE LANDOWNER AT THE
8	TIME OF SETTLEMENT, AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 60-12.N HEREOF.
9	[MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT RIGHT VALUE
0	The actual easement value paid to the landowner based on the number of development rights
1	associated with the property, including family conveyance lots.]
2	MAJOR STREAM
3	A PERENNIAL STREAM WITH A DRAINAGE AREA OF MORE THAN 400 ACRES

1	AS DEPICTED ON THE HARFORD COUNTY HYDROLOGY/ DRAINAGE AREA
2	MAP.
3	[MAXIMUM PER ACRE VALUE
4	An amount that is established by the Department of Planning and Zoning with the advice of
5	the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board as the per acre value not
6	to be exceeded in any easement agreement.]
7	[MAXIMUM EASEMENT PER ACRE VALUE
8	The actual per are price paid to the landowner based on the total valuation number multiplied
9	by the base multiplication easement value.]
0	MINOR STREAM
1	A PERENNIAL OR INTERMITTENT STREAM AS DEFINED BY THE ZONING CODE
12	OF HARFORD COUNTY WITH A DRAINAGE AREA OF LESS THAN 400 ACRES.
3	OWNER'S LOT
4	A lot of 2 acres or less, designated for the exclusive residential use of the landowner of record
5	at the time THE DEED of easement IS RECORDED [sale].
6	PER ACRE VALUE CAP
7	AN AMOUNT THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
8	AND ZONING WITH THE ADVICE OF THE HARFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
9	LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD AS THE PER ACRE VALUE NOT TO
20	BE EXCEEDED IN ANY EASEMENT AGREEMENT.
21	PURCHASE
22	The acquiring of property, and title thereto or interest therein, in exchange for money, or the
23	acceptance of a donation of property, and title thereto and interest therein, for no

1	consideration.
2	RESIDENTIAL DENSITY VALUE CAP
3	THE ACTUAL EASEMENT VALUE PAID TO THE LANDOWNER BASED ON THE
4	NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OR DENSITY, AS APPROPRIATE,
5	ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING FAMILY CONVEYANCE LOTS.
6	SALE OR SELL
7	The transfer of property, and title thereto or interest therein, for a sum of money, or the
8	acceptance of a donation of property, and title thereto and interest therein, for no
9	consideration.
0	SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP
1	A state of financial peril of a landowner, whether caused by a natural disaster, the disability
2	of the landowner or some other occurrence. Severe economic hardship can be evidenced by
3	bankruptcy proceedings or other documentation.
.4	SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5	A federal, state and county funded organization in Harford County developed to conserve

1	performed by a licensed surveyor in the State of Maryland. It shall include exceptions to any
2	commitment for title insurance unless waived by the Department of Planning and Zoning,
3	and the survey should be in such form and substance so that there is no survey exception to
4	the title commitment or title insurance policy.
5	TENANT HOUSE
6	A dwelling unit located on agricultural property that is used either for occupancy by
7	immediate members of the family owning or operating the agricultural use or by employees
8	engaged in agricultural activities on the property.
9	VALUATION NUMBER
0	POINT SYSTEM SCORE CALCULATED ON THE VALUATION WORKSHEET FOR
1	EACH APPLICANT TO DERIVE AN EASEMENT VALUE USING SUCH FACTORS
2	AS PROPERTY SIZE, SOIL QUALITY, DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, APPLIED
3	PRACTICES, AND NATURAL FEATURES.
4	WOODLAND
5	A biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants covering a land area of
6	1 acre or more.
7	Section 3. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-
8	11 of Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
9	Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and
0	reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:
1	Chapter 60. Agriculture
2	Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
3	§ 60-11. Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.

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2	E.	The	Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board shall have the following responsibilities
3		to t	the County Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights]
4		Prog	gram:
5		(1)	To advise the County with respect to the establishment of agricultural preservation
6			districts and the purchases of easements by the County.
7		(2)	To assist the County in reviewing the status of agricultural preservation districts and
8			easements.
9		(3)	To advise the County concerning priorities for agricultural LAND preservation and to
0			assist the County in development criteria for evaluating agricultural land applying to the
1			Program.
2		(4)	To promote the preservation of agricultural land within the County by offering
3			information and assistance to farmers with respect to the establishment of agricultural
4			preservation districts and the purchase of easements.
.5		(5)	To advise the County in review and approval of various requests as allowed by the
6			conservation easements and districts in such matters as owner/child lots, allowed uses,
.7			etc.
8		(6)	To work with the Maryland Environmental Trust to promote the Trust in the County
9			and to solicit donations to the Trust of conservation easements on land that meets the
20			Trust's criteria.
21	Section	n 4.	Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-
22	12 of A	Articl	e II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
13	Chante	er 60	Agriculture of the Harford County Code as amended he and it is hereby repealed and

1	reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:						
2	Chapter 60. Agriculture						
3	Article I	[. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program					
4	§ 60-12.	Agricultural LAND preservation easement.					
5	A. C	onditions for establishment. A landowner participating in the Harford County Agricultural					
6	L	and Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program agrees:					
7	(1) To maintain the land in agricultural use or in a properly managed state so that it is					
8		available for continued agricultural use from the date that the easement is recorded in					
9		the land records of Harford County.					
10	(2	2) To not allow any subdivision of the land, other than that outlined in the easement as					
1		owner/child lots OR AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY THIS PROGRAM.					
12	(3) TO NOT ALLOW ANY COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, OR INSTITUTIONAL					
3		USES, OTHER THAN THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH AN AGRICULTURAL USE,					
4		AS DEFINED IN SECTION 267-4 (DEFINITIONS) OF THE HARFORD COUNTY					
5		ZONING CODE, AS AMENDED AND AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 267-73					
6		(AGRICULTURAL/COMMERCIAL) OF THE HARFORD COUNTY ZONING					
.7		CODE, AS AMENDED.					
8	(4	PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT, TO CONSOLIDATE ALL PARCELS AND/OR LOTS					
9		INCLUDED WITHIN THE EASEMENT SUBJECT TO PURCHASE.					
20	[(:	3)](5)To implement and maintain a soil and water conservation plan as prepared by the					
21		Soil Conservation District, EXCEPT WHEN THE LAND IS SUBSTANTIALLY					
22		WOODED, IN WHICH CASE, THE INCLUSION OF LAND IN THE					
23	AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO						

1		SECTION 60-12A(8).
2		[(4)](6)To establish an easement on the property which creates an encumbrance upon the
3		lands and binds future owners, heirs, successors or assigns and which precludes the
4		utilization of the land for [nonagriculturally] NON-AGRICULTURALLY related uses.
5		Any agricultural uses currently permitted would be allowed to continue under the
6		agreement. The easement agreement shall not provide for public access to any
7		privately owned land.
8		[(5)](7)That construction of new buildings or structures on the land, other than farm
9		buildings, that did not exist at the time of district or easement establishment is
10		contingent upon the written application and approval by the Department of Planning
11		and Zoning, subject to review by and recommendation of the Agricultural Land
12		Preservation Advisory Board.
13		[(6)](8)[That] [f]For those landowner[']s whose property contains [25] 10 or more acres of
14		contiguous woodlands, the landowner [may] SHALL maintain a [f]Forest
15		[s]Stewardship [p]Plan prepared by a licensed forester.
16	B.	[Location] USE criteria. [The focus of the Program will be on lands agriculturally zoned.]
17		PROPERTIES QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF LAND
18		WHICH IS EITHER USED PRIMARILY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD, FIBER
19		OR FOREST PRODUCTS OR IS OF SUCH OPEN SPACE CHARACTER AND
20		PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY THAT CONTINUED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS
21		FEASIBLE.
22	C.	Size Criteria. The County may not purchase an agricultural preservation easement of less
23		than [50] 20 acres from a landowner unless:

1		(1)	It is contiguous to an easement that is [50] 20 acres or greater; or
2		(2)	The landowners on the adjoining property(s), which are less than [50] 20 acres but total
3			at least [50] 20 acres, apply and accept the County's offer to purchase an easement; or
4		(3)	The property is [greater than 25 acres and is] contiguous with at least [50] 20 acres of
5			land owned by a county, state or federal government agency that is compatible with
6			agriculture.
7		(4)	IN NO INSTANCE SHALL THE COUNTY PURCHASE A CONSERVATION
8			EASEMENT OF LESS THAN 10 ACRES OF LAND, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE
9			PERMITTED AS AN ADDITION TO AN EXISTING CONSERVATION
0			EASEMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION S. BELOW.
1	D.	Soil	Criteria.
2		[(1)	Properties qualified for the program shall consist of land which is either use primarily
3			for the production of food, fiber or timber production or is of such open space character
4			and productive capacity that continued agricultural production is feasible.
5		(2)	Exceptions to the soil criteria noted below include areas of existing, extensive,
6			specialized production, including but not limited to dairying, livestock, poultry, turf,
7			nursery, horse, fruit or berry production as recommended by the Agricultural Land
8			Preservation Advisory Board]
9		[(3)]	(1)[Soils criteria for lands equal to or greater than 50 acres.] At least 50% of the land
0			area proposed for preservation, less the acreage contained within the 100 year
1			floodplain as delineated on the Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, produced by the Federal
2			Emergency Management Administration and state or federal designated wetlands, shall
3			consist of U.S.D.A Soil Capability Classes I, II or III on cropland and Pasture or

1		Woodland Groups 1 and 2 on woodland areas.
2		[(4)](2)[Soils criteria for lands less than 50 acres. A minimum of 60% of the land area
3		proposed for preservation shall consist of U.S.D.A Soil Capability Classes I, II, III or
4		IV on cropland and Pasture and Woodland Groups 1 and 2 on wooded areas.]
5		EXCEPTIONS TO THE SOIL CRITERIA NOTED ABOVE INCLUDE AREAS OF
6		EXISTING, EXTENSIVE, SPECIALIZED PRODUCTION, INCLUDING BUT
7		NOT LIMITED TO, DAIRYING, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, TURF, NURSERY,
8		HORSE, FOREST PRODUCTS, FRUIT OR BERRY PRODUCTION AS
9		RECOMMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION
10		ADVISORY BOARD.
11	E.	OWNERSHIP CRITERIA. THE COUNTY SHALL NOT PURCHASE EASEMENTS ON
12		LAND OWNED BY A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION OR A PUBLIC UTILITY.
13	F.	DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL CRITERIA. THE COUNTY SHALL NOT PURCHASE
14		EASEMENTS ON LAND THAT IS DESIGNATED AS OPEN SPACE OR OTHERWISE
15		LACKS DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. LANDOWNERS MUST DEMONSTRATE
16		THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF SUCH LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY, AND
17		THAT SUCH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL COMPLIES WITH ALL FEDERAL,
18		STATE AND COUNTY LAWS TO ACHIEVE SAID POTENTIAL. SUCH
19		DETERMINATION SHALL BE MADE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
20		PLANNING AND ZONING, AND UPON THE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION
21		OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.
22	[E.]G.	Permitted Uses. PROPERTIES ZONED OTHER THAN AG (AGRICULTURAL) AT THE
23		TIME OF EASEMENT SETTLEMENT WILL BE TREATED AS AN AGRICULTURAL

1		OVE	ERLAY DISTRICT. A[n] LANDowner whose land is in the Harford County							
2		Agri	Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program shall be							
3		perm	nitted to:							
4		(1)	Use the land for any agricultural use as defined herein and as permitted in the Harford							
5			County Zoning Code, including those permitted in [§] SECTION 267-73							
6			(Agricultural/commercial) of the Harford County Zoning Code, as amended.							
7		(2)	Maintain the land for future agricultural use.							
8		(3)	Operate at any time machinery used in agricultural production or the primary							
9			processing of agricultural products. Such operations shall not be considered a nuisance,							
10			either public or private, as a result of changed land uses in and around the preserved							
11			property.							
12		(4)	Employ normal agricultural activities and operations in accordance with good							
13			husbandry and agronomic practices.							
14		(5)	Sell agricultural products as is permitted under the Harford County Code.							
15	[F.]H.	Excl	usion of lots under easement.							
16		(1)	Owner's Lot. The landowner of record at the time of easement sale may, at any time							
17			after the easement sale, request the exclusion of 2 acres or less for the exclusive							
18			residential use of that landowner. A letter must be provided to the Department of							
19			Planning and Zoning requesting this exclusion and verifying the owner's intention to							
20			live in this dwelling. This request is subject to review and recommendation by the							
21			Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. In addition, the INITIAL building							

permit and [owner/occupancy permit] THE INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF

OCCUPANCY [must] SHALL be in the [owner's] LANDOWNER'S name. The

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owner's lot may not be sold or transferred for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of the [use and occupancy permit] INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY except in the event of the death or legal incompetence of the [owner] LANDOWNER or if the lot is part of bankruptcy proceedings; or with the approval of the Department of Planning and Zoning, subject to review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.

- (2) Child's Lot. The landowner of record at the time of the easement sale may, at any time after the easement sale, request the exclusion of 2 acres or less for the exclusive residential use of the child. A letter must be provided to the Department of Planning and Zoning from both the landowner and the child requesting this exclusion and verifying that it is the intention of the child to live in this dwelling. This request is subject to review and recommendation by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. In addition, the INITIAL building permit and [owner/occupancy permit] THE INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY [must] SHALL be in the child's name. The child lot may not be sold or transferred for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of the [use and occupancy permit] INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY except in the event of the death or legal incompetence of the child or if the lot is part of bankruptcy proceedings; or with the approval of the Department of Planning and Zoning, subject to review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.
- (3) Number of permitted lots. The total number of lot exclusions may not exceed 1 dwelling unit per 25 acres or 4 lots per easement property, whichever is less. Lots shall not exceed 2 acres in size and shall include all County right-of- way requirements. The

1		inclusion of County right-of-way requirements in the lot size calculation may be
2		waived by the Director of Planning and Zoning for good cause shown, with the review
3		and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. THE
4		TOTAL NUMBER OF LOT EXCLUSIONS SHALL NEVER BE MORE THAN
5		THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OR DENSITY PURCHASED BY THE COUNTY
6		FROM THE LANDOWNER OF RECORD AT THE TIME OF EASEMENT SALE.
7		All costs associated with the establishment of the lot(S) shall be paid by the landowner.
8		In addition, any landowner of an easement requesting a lot exclusion shall be required
9		to repay the County for the lot excluded. This repayment shall be equal to the amount
10		paid per acre by the County.
11	[G.]I.	Tenant Houses. The landowner may request in writing a tenant [home] HOUSE in
12		accordance with conditions established [within SECTION 267-27D(6)] IN SECTION 267-
13		27D(5) of the Harford County Zoning Code, as amended. This request shall be submitted to
14		the Department of Planning and Zoning. Prior to a decision by the Department, the request
15		will be subject to the review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation
16		Advisory Board, who will consider the documented need for such a structure. The tenant
17		[home] HOUSE may not be subdivided off [of] the [easement] property CONTAINED IN
18		THE EASEMENT.
19	[H.]J.	Application to sell development [rights] POTENTIAL.
20		(1) The owner of agricultural land meeting the criteria for participating in this program
21		may, by written application, offer to sell to the County an easement on the entire
22		contiguous acreage of the agricultural land, SAVING AND EXCEPTING
23		THEREFROM ANY PROPERTY USED FOR NONAGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

EXISTING	ATTUE	TIME OF	A DDI I	MOITAC
P.XIN HING	ALIHE	LUVIE OF	APPLIC	A LIUN.

- (2) For each parcel being offered, the applicant shall include a general description of the parcel, including acreage and the current use of the land, and this shall be accompanied by a map or plat for each subject parcel at a scale no smaller than 1 inch equals 600 feet. In addition, a certified copy of the soil conservation plan, made or revised within 10 years of the date of the application, shall be provided. This plan shall list soil conservation and water quality problem areas on the land. THE APPLICATION FORM SHALL BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AND ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING.
- (3) All applications to sell DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL [easements] to the County shall be submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning BY MAY 1ST. [The Department, with the advice of the Treasury Department, shall establish specific dates by which applications to sell development rights must be received by the Department of Planning and Zoning.] Within [60] 30 calendar days after this deadline, the Department shall forward all applications to sell development [rights] POTENTIAL to the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board for [their] ITS review.
- (4) Each application shall be reviewed and ranked by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board in accordance with the County's Easement Priority Ranking System (EPR). All applications will be ranked first to last with the first application being the application with the highest EPR score. [A maximum easement value or maximum development right value] A FINAL EASEMENT OFFER will then be determined for each application.
- 23 [I.]K. Easement priority ranking system (total number of possible points [300]335).

1	(1)	THE	E EA	SEMENT	PRIORITY	RANKING	SYSTEM	("EPR")	SHALL	INCLUDE
2	QUA	ANTI	FIAB	BLE EVALU	JATION OF	SOIL PRODU	JCTIVITY,	LAND FE	ATURES	AND SIZE,
3	DEV	'ELC	PME	ENT POTEN	NTIAL AND	LOCATION,	AND OTHE	ER RELAT	ED CRIT	ERIA.
	[(1)	Soil	l Proc	ductivity Sc	ore (100 PTS	. Max.)				
	-	LES	SA Pr	rogram					=	_/100 PTS.
	(2)	Far	mlano	d Capability	, (35 PTS. Ma	ax.)				
	, ,	(a)	Crop	oland and pa	asture					
			75%	-100% crop	land and past	ure			=	_/25 PTS.
			50%	-74% cropla	and and pastu	re			=	_/15 PTS.
			Less	than 50% c	ropland and j	pasture			=	_/5 PTS.
		(b)	Hydi	ric or hydric	c inclusion so	ils				
			Less	than 20%					=	_/10 PTS.
			20%	-40%					=	_/5 PTS.
			41%	or greater					=	_/0 PTS.
	(3)	Lan	d Use	e Compatib	ility (90 PTS.	Max.)				
		(a)	Deve	elopment fa	ctors					
					lopment right 1 for main d	ts/family conv welling)	eyances ren	naining on		
				16+					=	_/20 PTS.
				11-15					=	_/15 PTS.
				5-10					=	_/10 PTS.
				Less tha	n 5				=	_/0 PTS.
		(b)	Prox	imity to pri	ority areas (4	0 PTS. Max.)				
			[1]	In a desi	gnated rural	legacy area (w	vithin 2 mile	es)	=	_/5 PTS.
			[2]	In an ag	riculture desi	gnation on the	land use pl	an	=	_/5 PTS.
			[3]	In a prio	rity preservat	ion area			=	_/25 PTS.
			[4]	Within 2	2 miles of dev	elopment env	elope		=	_/20 PTS.
		(c)	Farm	n size						
			200+	acres					=	_/30 PTS.
			100-	199 acres					=	_/20 PTS.
			50-99	9 acres					=	_/10 PTS.
	(4)	\mathbf{P}_{1}	rotect	ed Land Co	ontiguous to S	ite (30 PTS. I	Max.)			

	(a)	Site is contiguous to farmland which is protected recorded conservation easement	d by	=	_/15 PTS.
	(b)	Site is contiguous to federal, state or county own parkland	ned	=	_/10 PTS.
	(c)	Land is contiguous to interim protected land (e.g. AG Preservation District)	g., 5-year	=	_/5 PTS.
(5)		Soil Conservation Plan Approved by the Soil Comment Plan Approved by State Forester (10 PTS. M		District o	or Forest
	(a)	Meets current requirements and practices applie	d		_/10 PTS.
	(b)	Updated within 10 years and partially applied pr	ractices	=	_/5 PTS.
	(c)	No current approved plans		=	_/0 PTS.
(6)	Ownersh	nip (15 PTS. Max.)			
	(a)	Full-time owner/operator		=	_/15 PTS.
	(b)	Land rented by full-time farmer		=	_/10 PTS.
	(c)	Part-time owner/operator		=	_/5 PTS.
	(d)	Absentee landowner		=	_/0 PTS.
(7)	Contribu	ition to Continued Viability of Agricultural Comn	nunity (10 P	TS. Ma	x.)
	(a)	Substantial contribution		=	_/10 PTS.
	(b)	Moderate contribution		=	_/5 PTS.
	(c)	Minimal contribution		=	_/0 PTS.
(8)	Special (Conditions (10 PTS. Max.)			
	(a)	Economic hardship		=	_/10 PTS.
	(b)	Young farmers		=	_/10 PTS.
	(c)	Other (specify)		=	_/10 PTS.
		•	Total Score	=	PTS.]

(1) SOIL PRODUCTIVITY & SITE INDEX SCORE (MAXIMUM 10 POINTS)	=/100 PTS.
(2) FARM & FOREST CAPABILITY (MAXIMUM 50 POINTS)	
(A) CROPLAND AND PASTURE	
80% - 100%	=/25 PTS.
60% - 79%	=/20 PTS.
FARM & FOREST CAPABILITY (MAXIMUM 50 POINTS) CROPLAND AND PASTURE 80% - 100%	=/15 PTS.
20% - 39%	=/10 PTS.
LESS THAN 20%	=/5 PTS.

(B)	FOREST AND TREE COVER		
	OVER 50 ACRES	=	/25 PTS.
	35 - 50 ACRES	=	/20 PTS.
	20 - 35 ACRES	=	/15 PTS.
	10 - 20 ACRES	=	/10 PTS.
	5 - 10 ACRES	=	/5 PTS.
(3) L	AND USE COMPATIBILITY (MAXIMUM 120 POINTS)		- 127744444444444444444444444444444444444
(A)	DEVELOPMENT FACTORS		
,	NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS RIGHTS, FAMILY		
	CONVEYANCES, AND/OR DENSITY REMAINING ON THE		
	PROPERTY (MINUS 1 FOR MAIN DWELLING) (MAXIMUM 30		
	POINTS)		
•	*COMMERCIAL ZONED PROPERTIES RECEIVE 30 POINTS		/20 DTC
	16 OR MORE	=	/30 PTS
	11 TO 15	=	/25 PTS
	7 TO 10	=	/20 PTS
	3 TO 6	=	/15 PTS
•	LESS THAN 3	=	/10 PTS.
(B)	PROXIMITY TO PRIORITY AREAS (MAXIMUM 30 POINTS)		
(D)	WITHIN A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA	=	/25 PTS.
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	WITHIN A TRIORIT TRESERVATION AREA WITHIN 1 MILE OR INSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE	 =	
	WITHIN A DESIGNATED RURAL LEGACY AREA	<u> </u>	/15 PTS.
	WITHIN A DESIGNATED RORAL ELGACT AREA WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO A RURAL VILLAGE		
	WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO A RORAL VILLAGE WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO NON-AG ZONING		/10 T TS. /5 PTS.
	WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO NON-AG ZONING		
(C)	PROPERTY SIZE (MAXIMUM 30 POINTS)		
	GREATER THAN 200 ACRES	=	/30 PTS.
•	100 TO 199 ACRES	=	/20 PTS.
	50 TO 99 ACRES	=	/10 PTS.
	20 TO 49 ACRES	=	/5 PTS.
•••••	WITHIN DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE (ANY SIZE)	=_	/10 PTS.
	PROTECTED LAND CONTIGUOUS TO SITE (MAXIMUM 30		
(D)			
	SITE IS CONTIGUOUS TO LAND WHICH IS PROTECTED BY A	_	/15 PTS.
	TOOON TO OUT OF THE PROPERTY O	_	
	RECORDED CONSERVATION EASEMENT SITE IS CONTIGUOUS TO FEDERAL, STATE OR COUNTY	-	

	SITE IS CONTIGUOUS TO IN-TERM PROTECTED LAND DISTRICT	=/5 PTS.
	GRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES XIMUM 65 POINTS)	
	CURRENT SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVED BY THE	
	DISTRICT OR CURRENT FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN	
	PREPARED BY A MARYLAND LICENSED FORESTER.	
(A)	LANDOWNER MUST SUPPLY A COPY (MAXIMUM 10 POINTS)	
	MEETS CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES APPLIED	=/10 PTS.
	UPDATED WITHIN 10 YEARS AND PRACTICES PARTIALLY APPLIED	=/5 PTS.
***************************************	NO CURRENT PLANS	= /0 PTS.
	LAND MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTIES ASSESSED	
(B)	AGRICULTURAL PER SDAT (MAXIMUM 10 POINTS)	
	FULLTIME OWNER/OPERATOR OF AN AGRICULTURAL	- /10 DTC
	OPERATION	=/10 PTS.
	PART-TIME OWNER/OPERATOR OR LAND RENTED BY FULL-	= /5 PTS.
	TIME FARMER	
	ASSESSMENT OTHER THAN AGRICULTURAL	=/0 PTS.
	FOREST HABITAT CONNECTIVITY/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	
(C)	(MAXIMUM 15 POINTS)	
	(PER HARFORD COUNTY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN)	
	CORE AREA(S) OF AT LEAST 1 ACRE PRESENT ON THE	= /15 PTS.
****************	PROPERTY	
	HUB AREA(S) OF AT LEAST 1 ACRE PRESENT ON THE PROPERTY	=/10 PTS.
	CORRIDOR AREA(S) OF AT LEAST 1 ACRE PRESENT ON THE	= /5 PTS.
	PROPERTY	
	NO MAPPED FEATURES PRESENT ON THE PROPERTY	=/0 PTS.
(D)	WATER QUALITY BENEFITS (MAXIMUM 15 POINTS)	
	FRONTAGE ON MAJOR STREAM, RIVER OR BAY (AT LEAST 100')	=/15 PTS.
	FRONTAGE ON A MINOR STREAM (AT LEAST 300') AND/OR WETLANDS PRESENT ON THE PROPERTY	=/10 PTS.
•	STREAM FRONTAGE LESS THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE, OR	_ /s pro
	WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF A MAJOR STREAM	=/5 PTS.
	NO MAPPED FEATURES PRESENT ON THE PROPERTY	=/0 PTS.

(E)	SPECIAL CONDITIONS (MAXIMUM OF 15 POINT SLIDING SCALE)		
	EXAMPLES: HIGH-VALUE PROPERTY, HIGH RISK OF LOSS, SIGNIFICANCE OF AG OPERATION, YOUNG/BEGINNING OPERATOR, OTHER:	=/PTS.	
[J.]L.	Value of easement.		

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- [The actual easement value paid to the landowner shall be based on an overall 2 (1) evaluation of the property using factors such as size, development potential, best 3 management practices and soil productivity and percentage of soil class. The easement 4 5 value paid shall be either the maximum easement per acre value or the maximum development right value, whichever is lower, and in no case will the easement value 6 exceed the maximum per acre cap. The maximum easement per acre value is determined by the total valuation number multiplied by the base multiplication 8 WORKSHEET **INCLUDE** value.]THE **VALUATION** SHALL 9 easement 10 QUANTIFIABLE **EVALUATION** DENSITY OR DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL AND LOCATION, PRODUCTIVITY FEATURES AND SIZE, 12 NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES, AND OTHER RELATED CRITERIA, BUT 13 NOT ITS UNDERLYING ZONING CLASSIFICATION.
 - THE FINAL EASEMENT OFFER SHALL BE THE LESSER OF THE THREE (2) CALCULATIONS WHICH INCLUDE THE:
 - (A) FORMULA VALUE,
 - (B) RESIDENTIAL DENSITY VALUE CAP (APPLICABLE ONLY TO AGRICULTURAL AND RESIDENTIAL ZONED PROPERTIES), OR
 - (C) PER ACRE VALUE CAP.
- 20 [(2)](3) The base MULTIPLIER [multiplication easement] value, the [maximum] 21 development right] RESIDENTIAL DENSITY value CAP, and the per acre VALUE

1		cap shall be reviewed by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Bo	oard every 6
2		months taking into consideration market conditions, funding and deman	d. Upon the
3		recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory	Board, the
4		Department of Planning and Zoning shall establish a base M	ULTIPLIER
5		[multiplication easement] value, a [maximum] per acre value {CAP} and	a [maximum
6		per residential development right/confirmed family conveyance] RES	SIDENTIAL
7		DENSITY value CAP that the County is willing to pay a landowner.	
8	[(3)	Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the applicant, in the discr	etion of the
9		County and upon review by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory	Board, may
10		receive a one-time cash incentive if the property subject to the easeme	ent is in the
11		"agricultural preservation incentive" area of the County as set forth	on the 2017
12		Agricultural Preservation Incentive Map which shall be kept on file in the	Department
13		of Planning and Zoning. This one-time cash incentive shall be calculated	pursuant to a
14		formula approved by the Department of Planning and Zoning. This or	ne-time cash
15		incentive shall not affect the points system or ranking of the subject prope	erty.]
16		ation worksheet. and Potential:	
	[Bana 5120	Base	100
		Size (farm acreage/ag zoning density) (1% of base for every 10 acres)	+
		Total # of development rights (including family conveyance)	+
		(6% of base for every development right and 2% for every family conveyance)	
	Agricultura	l Land Quality:	
		Average soil productivity (LESA score)	+
		Cropland and pasture soils (soil acreage x weight ?? farm AC.) X 100	
		Class I soils x 1	+
		Class II soils x .72	+

Class III soils x .50 +	
Class IV (qualifying) soils x .18 +	
Woodland group (woodland acreage x weight ?? farm ac.) X 100	
Class I woodland x .50 +	
Class II woodland x .25 +	
Deduction for hydric and hydric inclusion soils (acreage x weight ?? farm ac.) x 100	
Hydric soils x .50	
Hydric inclusion soils x .25 (Hydric and hydric inclusion soils as defined by the National Hydric Soil List)	
Approved and implemented Soil Conservation District plan (10% of + base)	
Total Valuation Number	
Maximum Easement Value:	
Total valuation number x base	
Multiplication easement value = \$ per acre	
Maximum Development Right Value:	
Number of development rights remaining on the property	
Number of potential family conveyances	
Total number of potential rights	
Potential rights x development right value of \$	=\$
Maximum Per Acre Cap	\$]
BASE VALUE FOR FARM	+ 100
SIZE (ACREAGE - EXISTING NON-AGRICULTURAL USES/10)	
(1% OF BASE FOR EVERY 10 ACRES)	+
AVAILABLE RESIDENTIAL DENSITY UNITS INCLUDING FAMILY CONVERSE RESIDENTIAL DENSITY UNITS -1 FOR MAIN DWELLING X 6% OF BASE	<u>YANCES</u>
(MAX. OF 1000)	+
NON-AG OR RESIDENTIAL ZONED AREA ACRES X 12% OF BASE (MAX. OF 1000)	+
NATURAL RESOURCES	

AVERAGE CROP & FOREST PRODUC	CTIVITY (LES	SA & SITE INDEX SCC	RE)	+
CROPLAND & PASTURE SOILS (SOIL GIS BOUNDARIES	L ACS. X WE	IGHT / FARM ACS.) X	100 BAS	ED ON
CLASS I SOILS	X 1.0			+
CLASS II SOILS	X 0.72			+
CLASS III SOILS	X 0.50			+
CLASS IV SOILS	X 0.18			+
WOODLAND GROUP (WOODLAND A	ACS. X WEIG	HT / FARM ACS.) X 10	00 BASEI	O ON
CLASS I WOODLAND	X 1.0			+
CLASS II WOODLAND	X 0.72			+
WATER RESOURCES (10% OF BASE !F 300-LINEAR FEET (20% OF BASE !F 100-LINEAR FEET (ONSITE) LAND MANAGEMENT CURRENT SOIL CONSERVATION PL (10% OF BASE IF YES, LANDOWNER)	AN OR FORE	FREAMS, RIVERS, OR EST STEWARDSHIP PI	JAN	+
FORMULA VALUE				
TOTAL VALUATION NUMBER	X BASE MI	JLTIPLIER VALUE	= PRIC	CE/ACRE
PRICE/ACRE	X TOTAL A		=	
PER ACRE VALUE CAP PER ACRE VALUE CAP PER ACRE VALUE CAP RESIDENTIAL DENSITY VALUE CAR RESIDENTIAL DENSITY UNITS PERI		CREAGE X VALUE CAP		+
RESIDENTIAL DENSITY UNITS NOT		X VALUE CAP	=	
PERMITTED**				
**PER THE MARYLAND SUSTAINAI PRESERVATION ACT OF 2012			EGORIES	
LOCATION INCENTIVE				

	LOCATIO	N INCENTIVE VALUE X TOTAL ACREAGE =
	CINAL C	ASEMENT OFFER
	(LEAST C	F THE ABOVE FORMULA VALUE, PER ACRE VALUE CAP, ENTIAL DENSITY VALUE CAP + LOCATION INCENTIVE IF =
1		CATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.
2	(1)	THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS IS TO
3		ENCOURAGE LANDOWNERS IN AREAS WITH GREATER DEVELOPMENT
4		PRESSURE TO ENTER INTO THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION
5		PROGRAM.
6	(2)	NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING CONTAINED HEREIN, THE APPLICANT
7		SHALL RECEIVE A ONE-TIME CASH INCENTIVE IF ANY PORTION OF THE
8		PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE EASEMENT IS LOCATED WITHIN AN
9		"AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION INCENTIVE" AREA OF THE COUNTY.
10		IF A PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN MORE THAN ONE (1)
11		"AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION INCENTIVE" AREA, THEN THE
12		LANDOWNER SHALL ONLY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ONE (1)
13		INCENTIVE PAYMENT.
14	(3)	THE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION INCENTIVES AREAS WILL
15		CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
16		(A) WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE AS DELINEATED ON THE
17		LAND USE MAP CONTAINED WITHIN THE HARFORD COUNTY
18		MASTER PLAN;
19		(B) WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE AS DEFINED
20		ABOVE;

1		(C) ALL OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE COUNTY AND OUTSIDE OF THE
2		PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA (PPA) AS DELINEATED BY THE
3		PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA PLAN CONTAINED WITHIN THE
4		HARFORD COUNTY MASTER PLAN; AND
5		(D) OUTSIDE OF THE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE, ANY PROPERTY
6		ZONED OTHER THAN AG (AGRICULTURAL) OR ADJACENT TO A
7		PROPERTY ZONED OTHER THAN AG (AGRICULTURAL).
8	(4)	THIS ONE-TIME CASH INCENTIVE SHALL BE CALCULATED PURSUANT
9		TO A FORMULA APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
0		ZONING WITH ADVISEMENT BY THE AGRICULTURAL LAND
1		PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.
.2	(5)	THIS ONE-TIME CASH INCENTIVE SHALL NOT AFFECT THE POINTS
.3		SYSTEM OR RANKING OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
.4	[L.]O. Offe	rs.
.5	(1)	After determination of the EPR score and easement value, offers will be made to
.6		[all] qualified applicants. The County shall make offers to applicants a minimum
7		of [2] 1 time[s] [a] PER year, subject to the availability of funds and qualified
8		applicants. OFFERS SHALL BE MADE IN JULY OF EACH YEAR. The
9		applicant with the highest EPR score should receive the first offer, the applicant
20		with the second highest score should receive the second offer and so on until all
21		funds are expended. However, the County has the flexibility to modify this
22		procedure if adequate funding is not available for the next landowner in line. In this

1		case, the County may make an offer to the next highest score whose maximum
2		easement value does not exceed available funding.
3	(2)	The Department of Planning and Zoning will send each qualified landowner a
4		commitment letter stating their EPR ranking and the easement value. All applicants
5		must notify the Department of their intention to accept or reject the offer, and they
6		must specify their payment alternative. The applicant's response must be in writing
7		and received by the Department within 15 days of receipt of the commitment letter.
8	(3)	Those applicants not receiving an offer shall automatically be considered for the
9		next round of easement sale offers. All offers to purchase [development rights]
10		EASEMENTS from agricultural landowners must be approved by the Harford
11		County Board of Estimates and the County Council. ACCEPTED OFFERS
12		SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THEIR REVIEW
13		IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR. As the Harford County Agricultural Land
14		Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program is strictly voluntary,
15		no landowner shall be required to accept any offer made by the County to purchase
16		[their development rights] AN EASEMENT nor shall the County be required to
17		purchase [the development rights on farms] AN EASEMENT ON LANDS not
18		meeting the County's minimum EPR score of 150 points.
19	[M.]P. Payr	nent alternatives.
20	(1)	There are 2 payment options available through the [Purchase of Development Rights
21		Program.] AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM. Installment
22		purchase agreements (IPA) allow landowners to receive the total value of their
23		easement over a 10, 20 or 30 year time period as agreed upon by the County and

landowner. Landowners may also request a cash payment in which the landowner
will receive the total value of the easement at the time of settlement. After a payment
option is selected, it cannot be changed and it is contractual with the landowner at the
time of settlement.

- (2) If the landowner requests that the [development rights] EASEMENT be purchased in a manner other than through the IPA method, the County, after considering past and future IPA obligations and considering whether funds are available, shall offer to pay the landowner in cash for the [purchase of development rights.] EASEMENT. If funds are not available for the cash purchase of [development rights] THE EASEMENT, the landowner shall automatically be considered for the next round of easement sale offers.
- Once a landowner agrees to accept a County offer to purchase [his development rights] AN EASEMENT, a contract between the County and the individual seller will be written. This contract will include the total amount of money that the County has agreed to pay the landowner and sets the terms of that agreement.
- [N.]Q. Installment purchase agreement (IPA). IPA[']s include the total amount of money that the County has agreed to pay the landowner and establishes the terms of that agreement, including the fixed interest rate that the landowner will receive as part of the annual payments. The interest rate is determined by the strip treasury rate the day prior to settlement. The installment purchases shall be for 10, 20 or 30 years as agreed upon by the County and landowner, and the landowner will receive a final balloon payment of the principal and all unpaid interest upon the expiration of the installment pay out period. This agreement is exempt from the provisions of Sections 9, 10 and 11 of Article 31 of the

1	Annotaated	Code	of	Mary	land.

2	[O.]R.	Settlement.
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- (1) Settlement shall be made by the County [within 120 days of the date of county Council action. A 60 day extension may be requested in writing by either the landowner or the County in order to verify deed information and/or provide an updated survey or other information needed by the County to complete the easement sale process.] BEFORE JUNE 30TH OF THE SAME FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE OFFER WAS MADE.
 - (2) Prior to the selection of a mutually agreeable settlement date, the County shall be in receipt of the title and title commitment from the assigned title company, a survey provided by the landowner and all other subordination agreements or other documentation related to obtaining a clear title.
- [P.]S. Easement recordation. Once all necessary documents have been properly signed, a deed of easement, restricting in perpetuity future development on the property, shall be recorded in the Harford County land records along with a recorded plat of the easement property.

 The form of the deed of easement shall be similar to the deed of easement attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. All easements shall run concurrent with the land. The County shall pay all reasonable costs at settlement for the following: title report; title insurance; and recordation fees, if applicable.
- [Q.]T. Additions to existing easements. [The process for adding land to existing easements shall
 be the same as for the initial establishment of an easement. The Agricultural Land
 Preservation Advisory Board shall establish a minimum size criteria for the addition of
 land contiguous to an existing easement.] A LANDOWNER WHOSE PROPERTY IS

1	SUE	SJECT TO AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY APPLY TO ADD
2	ADI	DITIONAL LAND THAT IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING EASEMENT
3	SUB	SJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:
4	(1)	THE ADDITIONAL LAND MUST BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE HARFORD
5		COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM. UPON THE
6		RECOMMENDATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION
7		ADVISORY BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
8		MAY MAKE EXCEPTIONS TO THE SIZE CRITERIA OR DEVELOPMENT
9		POTENTIAL CRITERIA. THE COUNTY SHALL NOT PAY FOR ADDITIONS
10		TO EXISTING EASEMENTS WITH NO DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL BUT
11		MAY ACCEPT SUCH ADDITIONAL LAND AS A DONATION;
12	(2)	THE ADDITIONAL LAND SHALL BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE
13		EXISTING EASEMENT PARCEL AND MAY NOT BE SUBDIVIDED FROM
14		THE ORIGINAL EASEMENT PROPERTY IN THE FUTURE, EXCEPT AS
15		OTHERWISE PERMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION;
16	(3)	THE OWNER SHALL PROVIDE A LEGALLY SUFFICIENT SURVEY OF THE
17		ADDITIONAL LAND AT THEIR EXPENSE.
18	(4)	AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL DEED OF EASEMENT SHALL BE
19		RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF HARFORD COUNTY;
20	(5)	THE EASEMENT ON THE ADDITIONAL LAND MAY BE DONATED TO THE
21		PROGRAM FOR NO MONETARY CONSIDERATION, OR THE COUNTY MAY
22		ELECT TO MAKE AN OFFER TO PURCHASE THE EASEMENT;
23	(6)	ANY PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONS TO EXISTING CONSERVATION

1		EASEMENTS SHALL BE BASED ON THE CURRENT VALUATION SYSTEM;
2		AND
3	(7)	ALL PURCHASED ADDITIONS TO EXISTING EASEMENTS SHALL BE
4		APPROVED BY THE HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ESTIMATES AND THE
5		COUNTY COUNCIL BUT MAY OCCUR OUTSIDE OF THE SCHEDULED
6		ROUND OF OFFERS, NOT SUBJECT TO THE RANKING CRITERIA, IF
7		FUNDING IS AVAILABLE AND SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF
8		PLANNING AND ZONING WITH ADVISEMENT FROM THE
9		AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.
0	[R.]U. Agric	cultural subdivision. A landowner whose property is subject to an
1	ease	ment under this section shall be entitled to subdivide the property into smaller parcels
2	subje	ect to the following conditions:
3	(1)	No additional dwellings shall be permitted on parcels created through the subdivision
4		of the property;
15	(2)	All [subdivided parcels and any] remaining parcelS shall be at least [25] 50 acres,
16		except that parcels of less than [25] 50 acres may be created if combined with an
17		adjacent EASEMENT parcel or if approved by the Department of Planning and
8		Zoning, with the review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation
19		Advisory Board;
20	(3)	No tenant house shall be permitted to be subdivided from the original property, as the
21		property existed at the time the deed of easement was recorded; and
22	[(4)]	The subdivision of the property will not be inconsistent with any soil
23		conservation or water quality plan in existence prior to the subdivision.

i	٧.	BOC	INDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS. A LANDOWNER WHOSE PROPERTY IS
2		SUB	JECT TO AN EASEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY REQUEST AN
3		ADJ	USTMENT TO BOUNDARY LINES WITH AN ADJACENT PARCEL.
4		BOU	NDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS WITH ADJACENT NON-EASEMENT
5		PRO	PERTIES REQUIRE AN EXCHANGE OF EQUAL ACREAGE FROM THE NON-
6		EAS	EMENT PARCEL. ALL SUCH REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY
7		THE	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING WITH ADVISEMENT FROM THE
8		AGR	ICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.
9	[S.]W.	Repo	orts. TO AIDE IN BUDGET PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR,
0		[T]T	he County Treasurer shall submit to the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory
1		Boar	d [on a semi-annual basis] BY DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, a report detailing
2		the F	OLLOWING INFORMATION:
3		(1)	ALL revenues received under the transfer tax AND INVESTMENT INCOME,
4		(2)	the revenues expended for agricultural preservation listed by payment method TO
5			INCLUDE A BREAKDOWN OF ALL CASH PAYMENTS, AND PAST FISCAL
6			YEAR, CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AND FUTURE COMMITTED IPA
7			PAYMENTS, [and]
8		(3)	cost[S] incurred to administer the Agricultural Land Preservation Program AND
9		(4)	REMAINING BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR NEW EASEMENT PURCHASES.
.0	[T.]X.	Tax	credit. Landowners may be eligible for a tax credit under Section 123-43.3.1
1		(HAl	RFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS) of the
2		Harfo	ord County Code, AS AMENDED.
3	Section	4.	Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-

- 1 13 of Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
- 2 Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and
- 3 reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:
- 4 Chapter 60. Agriculture
- 5 Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
- 6 § 60-13. Agricultural preservation districts.
- 7 The Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Developments Rights]
- 8 Program also allows a landowner the option of establishing an agricultural preservation district.
- 9 An agricultural preservation district is a minimum 5 year agreement by the landowner not to
- develop their land. If a landowner applying to establish an agricultural preservation district does
- not meet the state's minimum size criteria but otherwise qualifies for their program, the landowner
- may establish an agricultural preservation district through the County program.
- 13 A. Conditions for establishment. A landowner agrees:
- (1) To maintain the land in agricultural use OR IN A PROPERLY MANAGED STATE

 SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUED AGRICULTURAL USE from
- the date that the district is recorded in the land records of Harford County.
- 17 (2) That the district agreement creates an encumbrance upon the land and binds future
- owners, heirs, successors or assigns, and which precludes the utilization of the land
- for non-agriculturally related uses for a minimum of 5 years. Any agricultural uses
- currently permitted would be allowed to continue under this agreement as permitted
- by the Harford County Zoning Code.
- 22 (3) That the construction of NEW buildings or structures on the land, other than farm
- buildings, THAT DID NOT EXIST AT THE TIME OF DISTRICT

1			ESTABLISHMENT is contingent upon the written application and approval of the
2			Department of Planning and Zoning, subject to review by and recommendation of the
3			Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.
4	B.	USE	CRITERIA. PROPERTY QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST
5		OF :	LAND WHICH IS EITHER USED PRIMARILY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
6		FOC	D, FIBER OR FOREST PRODUCTS OR IS OF SUCH OPEN SPACE
7		CHA	RACTER AND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY THAT CONTINUED
8		AGF	RICULTURAL PRODUCTION IS FEASIBLE.
9	[B.]C.	Loca	ation criteria. [The focus of the program will be on lands agriculturally zoned.] TO
0		QUA	ALIFY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT THE PROPERTY
1		SHA	LL BE ZONED AGRICULTURAL UNDER THE HARFORD COUNTY ZONING
2		COL	DE.
3	[C.]D.	Size	criteria. An agricultural preservation district shall be a minimum of 50 contiguous
4		acres	s. However, a parcel of less than 50 acres may qualify as a district if:
15		(1)	IT IS CONTIGUOUS TO AN EASEMENT THAT IS 50 ACRES OR GREATER;
16			OR
17		[(1)]	(2) It adjoins a 50 acre parcel which has been approved by the County as an agricultural
18			preservation district; or
19		[(2)]	(3) It has been added to one or more adjoining parcels which together have been
20			approved by the County as agricultural preservation districts; or
21		(4)	THE PROPERTY IS CONTIGUOUS TO AT LEAST 50 ACRES OF LAND
22			OWNED BY A COUNTY, STATE, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY
23			THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH AGRICULTURE; OR

I			[(3)](5) The land has an agricultural productivity capability higher than the County
2			average as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture.
3	[D.]E. S	Soil c	criteria.
4	[(1)	Properties qualified for the program shall consist of land which is either used
5			primarily for the production of food, fiber or timber production or is of such open
6			space character and productive capacity that continued agricultural production is
7			feasible.
8	(2)	Exceptions to the soil criteria noted below include areas of existing, extensive,
9			specialized production, including by not limited to dairying, livestock, poultry, fruit
0			or berry production as recommended by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory
1			Board.]
2	[(3)](1)[Soils criteria for lands equal to or greater than 50 acres.] At least 50% of the
3			land area proposed for preservation, less the acreage contained within the 100 year
4			floodplain as delineated on the Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, produced by the
5			Federal Emergency Management Administration and state or federal designated
6			wetlands, shall consist of U.S.D.A. Soil Capability Classes I, II or III on cropland and
7			Pasture or Woodland Groups 1 and 2 on woodland areas.
8	[(4)	Soils criteria for lands less than 50 acres. A minimum of 60% of the land area
9			Proposed for preservation shall consist of U.S.D.A. Soil Capability Classes I, II, III,
0			or IV on cropland and Pasture and Woodland Groups 1 and 2 on wooded areas.]
.1	((2)	EXCEPTIONS TO THE SOIL CRITERIA NOTED ABOVE INCLUDE AREAS OF
2			EXISTING, EXTENSIVE, SPECIALIZED PRODUCTION, INCLUDING BUT
3			NOT LIMITED TO, DAIRYING, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, TURF, NURSERY,

1		HORSE, FOREST PRODUCTS, FRUIT OR BERRY PRODUCTION AS
2		RECOMMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION
3		ADVISORY BOARD.
4	F. OW	NERSHIP CRITERIA. AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT IS
5	NO	T PERMITTED ON LAND OWNED BY A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION OR
6	A P	UBLIC UTILITY.
7	G. DE	VELOPMENT POTENTIAL CRITERIA. AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
8	DIS	TRICT IS NOT PERMITTED ON LAND THAT IS DESIGNATED OPEN SPACE
9	OR	OTHERWISE LACKS DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OR FAMILY CONVEYANCES.
0	[E.]H. Perr	mitted Uses. An owner whose land is in [the Harford County Land Preservation and
1	Puro	chase of Development Rights Program] AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
2	DIS	TRICT shall be permitted to:
3	(1)	Use the land for agricultural use as defined herein and as permitted in the Harford
4		County Code, including those permitted in [Section 267.43(F)] SECTION 267-73
5		(AGRICULTURAL/COMMERCIAL) of the Harford County Zoning Code, as
6		amended.
7	(2)	Maintain the land for future agricultural use.
8	(3)	Operate at any time machinery used in agricultural production or the primary
9		processing of agricultural products. Such operations shall not be considered a
20		nuisance, either public or private, as a result of changed land uses in and around the
21		preserved property.

- (4) Employ normal agricultural activities and operations in accordance with good husbandry and agronomic practices [as long as the activities and operations do not endanger the health and welfare of the citizens of the County].
 - (5) Sell agricultural products as is permitted under the Harford County Code.
 - (6) Use the land for additional conservation easements and mitigation offsets, such as but not limited to wetlands and afforestation, provided that the use does not impair any agricultural use on the land, that the use is not greater than 10% of the total acreage of the property as the property existed at the time the [deed of easement was recorded] DISTRICT WAS ESTABLISHED and that the use is approved by the Soil Conservation District.

[F.]I. Exclusion of lots under district.

(1) Owner's lot. The landowner of record at the time of district establishment may, at any time after the district has been established, request the exclusion of 2 acres or less for the exclusive use of that landowner. A letter must be provided to the Department of Planning and Zoning requesting this exclusion and verifying the owner's intention to live in this dwelling. This request is subject to review and recommendation by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. In addition, the INITIAL building permit and the [owner/occupancy permit] INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY [must]SHALL be in the [owner's]LANDOWNER'S name. The owner's lot may not be sold or transferred within 5 years from the date of recording the district AGREEMENT except in the event of the death or legal incompetence of the LANDowner or if the lot is part of bankruptcy proceedings; or with approval of the

Department of Planning and Zoning, subject to review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.

- (2) Child's lot. The landowner of record at the time of district establishment may, at any time after the district has been established, request the exclusion of two acres or less for the exclusive residential use of the child. A letter must be provided to the Department of Planning and Zoning from both the landowner and the child requesting this exclusion and verifying that it is the intention of the child to live in this dwelling. This request is subject to review and recommendation by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. In addition, the INITIAL building permit and the [owner occupancy permit] INITIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY must be in the child's name. The child lot may not be sold or transferred within 5 years from the date of recording the district AGREEMENT except in the event of the death or legal incompetence of the child or if the lot is part of bankruptcy proceedings; or with approval of the Department of Planning and Zoning, subject to review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.
- (3) Number of permitted lots. The total number of lot exclusions may not exceed 1 dwelling unit per 25 acres or 4 lots per district property, whichever is less. Lots shall not exceed 2 acres in size and shall include all County right-of-way requirements. The inclusion of County right-of-way requirements in the lot size calculation may be waived by the Director of Planning for good cause shown, with the review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LOT EXCLUSIONS SHALL NEVER BE MORE THAN THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND FAMILY CONVEYANCES AT THE TIME OF

1		DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT. All costs associated with the establishment of [this		
2		lot] THE LOT(S) shall be paid by the landowner, and the district will be amended to		
3		identify the lot(s) excluded.		
4	[G.]J. T	enant Houses. The landowner may request in writing a tenant [home] HOUSE in		
5	ac	cordance with conditions established within [Section 267-26(D)(6)] SECTION 267-		
6	23	(D)(5) of the Harford County Zoning Code, as amended. This request shall be submitted		
7	to	the Department of Planning and Zoning. Prior to a decision by the Department, the		
8	re	quest will be subject to review and recommendation of the Agricultural Land		
9	Pı	Preservation Advisory Board, who will consider the documented need for such a structure.		
10	T	The tenant [home] HOUSE may not be subdivided off of the property while in the district.		
11	N	Nor may it be subdivided if the property is going to proceed to settlement under any		
12	pr	preservation program.		
13	[H.]K. T	. Termination and alteration of districts. The following provisions are applicable only to		
14	la	land in agricultural preservation districts on which an easement is not held by the County		
15	or	the state.		
16	(1) A landowner may terminate his property's inclusion in an agricultural preservation		
17		district at any time after 5 years from the establishment of the district. Notice of		
18		intention to terminate must be submitted to the County at least 6 months prior to		
19		district termination.		
20	(2) Severe ECONOMIC hardship. If severe economic [or personal] hardship occurs, the		
21		County may, on an individual basis, release the landowner's property from an		
22		agricultural preservation district at any time. The landowner shall petition the		

1		Cour	nty, stating succinctly the severe ECONOMIC hardship that the landowner is
2		susta	ining and providing the County with the following:
3		(a)	A recent financial statement which shows the owner's complete assets and
4			liabilities and a statement under the penalty of perjury that the information
5			contained in the financial statement is true and accurate.
6		(b)	Other information attesting to the severe ECONOMIC hardship that the
7			landowner is sustaining, including by way of example information from the
8			mortgagees, lien holders, creditors, attorneys, the internal revenue service and
9			other party interests who are qualified to address the condition of the landowner.
10		(c)	To the extent permitted by law, the County shall deny public access to the
1			information the landowner has supplied the County.
12		(d)	The question of whether severe economic hardship exists will be decided by the
13			Department of Planning and Zoning with concurrence from the County
14			Attorney and the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board.
15	(3)	No d	evelopment plans may be submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning
16		prior	to the formal termination of the district.
17	(4)	A la	ndowner terminating a district shall be required to pay back to the County the
18		appli	ed tax credit given to the property while under the district agreement.
19	Section 5.	Ве	It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 60-
20	14 of Article	e II, A	gricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program, of
21	Chapter 60,	Agric	ulture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and
22	reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:		
23	Chapter 60	. Agr	iculture

- 1 Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
- 2 § 60-14. Inspections AND ENFORCEMENT.
- 3 All properties in the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development
- 4 Rights] Program will be subject to [periodic] AN inspection[s] AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 5
- 5 YEARS. Inspections will be conducted to determine if the owner is complying with the terms of the
- 6 easement. A representative of the Department of Planning and Zoning will conduct the inspection.
- At least 1 month prior to the inspection, the Department shall give the landowner notice, by mail, of
- 8 ITS intention to inspect the property, and all inspections will be conducted at reasonable times. ANY
- 9 VIOLATION OF THE TERMS OF THIS CHAPTER 60 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO
- 10 ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 1-23 (GENERAL PENALTY) AND
- 11 SECTION 267-14 (VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES) OF THIS CODE.
- 12 Section 6. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that a new
- Section 60-16 of Article II, Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights]
- 14 Program, of Chapter 60, Agriculture, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
- added to the Code. all to read as follows:
- 16 Chapter 60. Agriculture
- 17 Article II. Agricultural Land Preservation [and Purchase of Development Rights] Program
- 18 § 60-16. PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR REVIEW.
- 19 THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING, UNDER THE REVIEW OF THE
- 20 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD, SHALL PREPARE A
- 21 PROGRAM MANUAL TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
- 22 ARTICLE. THE PROGRAM MANUAL SHALL BE COMPLY WITH BEST MANAGEMENT
- 23 PRACTICES FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION. THE PROGRAM MANUAL

- 1 SHALL BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.
- 2 Section 7. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the
- 3 date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: May 13, 2024

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

Council Administrator