CHAPTER 453

(House Bill 239)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Agricultural Ombudsman Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a certain agricultural ombudsman program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to designate an agricultural ombudsman; establishing certain duties of the agricultural ombudsman; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations relating to the agricultural ombudsman program; and generally relating to an agricultural ombudsman program.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 2-104(o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 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 - Health - General

2-104

- (0) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AN ACRICULTURAL OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.
- (2) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE AN AGRICULTURAL OMBUDSMAN.
 - (3) (2) THE AGRICULTURAL OMBUDSMAN SHALL:
- $\underline{\rm (I)}$ SERVE AS THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE WHO INTERACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT $\underline{\rm AND}$
- (I) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO ON-FARM FOOD PROCESSING, ON-FARM FOOD PREPARATION, AND OTHER ON-FARM ACTIVITIES:
- (II) ASSIST WITH EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO ON FARM FOOD PROCESSING, ON FARM FOOD PREPARATION, AND OTHER ON FARM ACTIVITIES:
- (III) ASSIST WITH OBTAINING HEALTH PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT: AND