

~~State Government Article, on or before January 1, 2006, on or before January 1, 2006, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and the Department of Planning shall jointly:~~

~~(1) Examine options for the establishment of a Critical Farms Program to provide interim or emergency financing for the acquisition of agricultural preservation easements on critical farms that would otherwise be sold for nonagricultural uses;~~

~~(2) Develop criteria for counties to consider when determining whether a property qualifies for the Program, including:~~

~~(i) The qualifying strategic characteristics of the property, including location and productivity;~~

~~(ii) The circumstances creating the risk of the property being sold for nonagricultural purposes;~~

~~(iii) When applicable, the characteristics of the purchaser of strategic farmland seeking assistance from the Program;~~

~~(iv) The consistency of the proposed acquisition with county goals and priorities and the county's priority preservation area; and~~

~~(v) Evaluation of the property as a priority easement acquisition;~~

~~(3) Examine financing options for easement acquisition on critical farms; and~~

~~(4) Submit a report on and legislative proposal for the establishment of a Critical Farms Program to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.~~

~~SECTION 3. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.~~

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 1341 – *Public Health – Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative*.

This bill establishes a Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Moreover, House Bill 1341 provides for the duties of the Centers of Excellence faculty and authorizes a Center of Excellence