

House Bill No. 376

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Gas and Mineral
Natural Gas Rights**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting regulations and procedures adopted by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation for the establishment and monitoring of agricultural districts from requiring, in Garrett County or Allegany County, a natural gas company or other mineral rights owner or lessee to subordinate its interest to the Foundation's interest under certain circumstances; requiring that a certain report be submitted by a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

BY adding to

Article - Agriculture

Section 2-509(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Agriculture

Section 2-509(c) and (d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article - Agriculture

2-509.

(C) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MONITORING OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS MAY NOT REQUIRE, IN GARRETT COUNTY OR ALLEGANY COUNTY, A NATURAL GAS COMPANY OR OTHER MINERAL RIGHTS OWNER OR LESSEE TO SUBORDINATE ITS INTEREST TO THE FOUNDATION'S INTEREST IF THE FOUNDATION DETERMINES THAT EXERCISE OF THE NATURAL GAS RIGHTS WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH AN AGRICULTURAL OPERATION CONDUCTED ON LAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

[(c)] (D) Regulations and criteria developed by the Foundation relating to land which may be included in an agricultural district shall provide that:

(1) Land shall meet productivity, acreage, and locational criteria determined by the Foundation to be necessary for the continuation of farming;