



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 472

January Session, 2009

Senate Bill No. 1082

Senate, April 6, 2009

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF STATE-OWNED AGRICULTURAL LAND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section,
2 "agricultural land" has the same meaning as in section 22-26bb of the
3 general statutes. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Board shall
4 conduct a review of any state-owned agricultural land, excluding any
5 such land owned by the Department of Environmental Protection, to
6 evaluate methods for permanently preserving each such parcel of land,
7 and to make recommendations for further action to be taken to
8 preserve each such parcel, including, but not limited to,
9 recommendations for a conservation easement or possible transfer of
10 the interest of such property and the identification of potential
11 recipients of any such conservation easement. The board may consider
12 methods of preservation that would result in an increase in revenue for
13 the state. The board shall consult with the agency that exercises control
14 over the applicable parcel when conducting a review of such parcel.

15 The board may consult with (1) the office of the Attorney General to
16 review legal options for permanently preserving each such parcel, or
17 (2) the Department of Environmental Protection or federal agencies to
18 assist in calculating the conservation values for each such parcel.

19 (b) No later than January 15, 2010, the board shall submit, in
20 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
21 such recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture and the
22 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
23 of matters relating to environment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact for the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to conduct a review of state-owned agricultural land, to make certain recommendations, or to consider certain methods of perservation. There is also no fiscal impact associated with the Board to consult with other state or federal agencies to calculate the value of certain parcels of agricultural land.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1082*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF STATE-OWNED AGRICULTURAL LAND.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to review any state-owned agricultural land, excluding Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) land, to evaluate permanent preservation methods and make recommendations for further preservation action. This includes recommendations for (1) a conservation easement or possible transfer of the property's interest and (2) the identification of potential recipients of any resulting conservation easement.

Under the bill, the board may consider preservation methods that would result in an increase in state revenue. The board must consult with the agency that controls the applicable parcel when undertaking its land review. It may consult with (1) the Attorney General's Office to review legal options for permanently preserving each parcel or (2) DEP or federal agencies to help calculate the conservation values for each parcel.

The board must submit its recommendations to the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) commissioner and the Environment Committee by January 15, 2010.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

AGRICULTURE LAND

The bill defines "agricultural land" as the law does for DOAG's agricultural land preservation program. By law, "agricultural land" means any land in the state which, based on soil types, existing and

past use of the land for agricultural purposes, and other relevant factors, is suitable for (1) cultivating plants for production of human food and fiber and other useful and valuable plant products; (2) producing animals, livestock, and poultry useful to man and the environment; and (3) providing economically profitable farm units. It may include adjacent pastures, wooded land, natural drainage areas, and other adjacent open areas.

BACKGROUND

Farmland Preservation Advisory Board

By law, the 12-member board helps the Agriculture Department with its purchase of development rights program and other efforts to preserve agricultural lands. The board is within DOAG for administrative purposes only. The board must provide comments and recommendations on the purchase of development rights. The board may also submit recommendations on preservation programs for legislative action.

Related Bill

sHB 6660, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, authorizes a \$12.5 million increase in bonds for the state's farmland preservation program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/18/2009)