

SENATE BILL 34

M4

(PRE-FILED)

3lr0991
CF HB 389

By: ~~Senator Hester~~ Senators Hester and Gallion

Requested: November 20, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 7, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Agriculture – State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added**
3 **Agriculture**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added
5 Agriculture as a position in the Department of Agriculture; and generally relating to
6 the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Agriculture
9 Section 2-106
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Agriculture
14 Section 2-2201 and 2-2202 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 22. State
15 ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture”
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Agriculture**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 2-106.

2 (a) The following positions and units are included within the Department:

3 (1) The Maryland Agricultural Fair Board;

4 (2) The Chief of Weights and Measures;

5 (3) The State Chemist;

6 (4) The State Veterinarian;

7 (5) The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners;

8 (6) The State Soil Conservation Committee;

9 (7) The Maryland Agricultural Commission;

10 (8) The Maryland Horse Industry Board;

11 (9) The Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board; [and]

12 (10) The Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission; AND

13 (11) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED
14 AGRICULTURE.

15 (b) The Secretary shall appoint the State Chemist, State Veterinarian, STATE
16 ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE, and Chief of Weights
17 and Measures.

18 (c) The Department also includes any other position or unit which is declared
19 within the Department pursuant to law.

20 **SUBTITLE 22. STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED**
21 **AGRICULTURE.**

22 **2-2201.**

23 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE":**

24 **(1) MEANS THE ALTERATION OR ENHANCEMENT OF A RAW**
25 **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT, INCLUDING LIVESTOCK, OR AN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**
26 **IN A WAY THAT INCREASES THE ~~PRODUCT'S~~ PRODUCT OR SERVICE'S WORTH TO A**

1 CONSUMER AND BRINGS MORE REVENUE TO A FARMER, PRODUCER, OR PROCESSOR;
2 AND

3 (2) INCLUDES ALL ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDING
4 EQUINE ACTIVITIES, IN WHICH AN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OR THE
5 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS'S PRODUCTS OR SERVICES ARE ALTERED, MARKETED,
6 PRODUCED, OR PROCESSED IN A WAY THAT ADDS INCOME TO A FARMER, PRODUCER,
7 OR PROCESSOR.

8 2-2202.

9 (A) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED
10 AGRICULTURE SHALL:

11 (1) SERVE AS THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR INDIVIDUALS
12 ENGAGING IN, OR INTERESTED IN ENGAGING IN, VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE IN
13 THE STATE;

14 (2) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING STATE AND FEDERAL
15 REGULATIONS RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE;

16 (3) ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS
17 INVOLVED IN VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE; AND

18 (4) PERFORM ANY OTHER DUTY OR FUNCTION THAT SUPPORTS
19 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE, AS REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY.

20 (B) THE STATE ~~OMBUDSMAN~~ SPECIALIST FOR VALUE-ADDED
21 AGRICULTURE SHALL RECEIVE A SALARY AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a Position Identification
23 Number (PIN) shall be created in the Department of Agriculture for the State ~~Ombudsman~~
24 Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, during the first year after
26 the initial appointment of the State ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist for Value-Added Agriculture,
27 the priority function of the ~~Ombudsman~~ Specialist is to focus on implementing the
28 recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Return to State Meat Process
29 Inspection.

30 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2023.