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**By: Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Golf Courses - Use of State or Political Subdivision Public Funds - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the use of public funds by a political subdivision or unit  
4 of State government for the construction, operation, or maintenance of a golf  
5 course; requiring a political subdivision or unit of State government that owns or  
6 operates a golf course to sell any interest in the golf course or other property  
7 relating to the golf course at a public sale in accordance with political subdivision or  
8 State law; defining certain terms; and generally relating to prohibiting the use of  
9 public funds for golf courses.

10 BY adding to

11 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions  
12 Section 15-101 to be under the new title "Title 15. Use of PoliticalSubdivision  
13 Public Funds for Golf Courses"  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article - Natural Resources  
18 Section 5-1801 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 18. Use of Public Funds for  
19 Golf Courses"  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

24 **Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions**

25 TITLE 15. USE OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GOLF COURSES.

26 15-101.

27 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
28 INDICATED.

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1                   (2) "GOLF COURSE" MEANS AN AREA OF LAND DESIGNED FOR THE  
2 GAME OF GOLF WITH A SERIES OF NINE OR MORE HOLES, EACH INCLUDING A TEE,  
3 FAIRWAY, PUTTING GREEN, AND ONE OR MORE NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL  
4 HAZARDS.

5                   (3) "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" MEANS:

6                   (I) A COUNTY;

7                   (II) A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;

8                   (III) A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT; AND

9                   (IV) A PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE STATE.

10                  (B) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE  
11 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, OR MAINTENANCE OF A GOLF COURSE.

12                  (C) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT OWNS OR OPERATES A GOLF COURSE  
13 SHALL SELL OR TRANSFER ITS INTEREST IN THE GOLF COURSE OR ANY OTHER  
14 PROPERTY RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE GOLF COURSE IN ACCORDANCE  
15 WITH ANY PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING TO SALE OF PROPERTY OF THE  
16 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

17                  **Article - Natural Resources**

18                  SUBTITLE 18. USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GOLF COURSES.

19 5-1801.

20                  (A) IN THIS SECTION, "GOLF COURSE" MEANS AN AREA OF LAND DESIGNED  
21 FOR THE GAME OF GOLF WITH A SERIES OF NINE OR MORE HOLES, EACH  
22 INCLUDING A TEE, FAIRWAY, PUTTING GREEN, AND ONE OR MORE NATURAL OR  
23 ARTIFICIAL HAZARDS.

24                  (B) A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE  
25 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, OR MAINTENANCE OF A GOLF COURSE.

26                  (C) A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT OWNS OR OPERATES A GOLF  
27 COURSE SHALL SELL OR TRANSFER ITS INTEREST IN THE GOLF COURSE OR ANY  
28 OTHER PROPERTY RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE GOLF COURSE IN  
29 ACCORDANCE WITH ANY PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING TO SALE OF PROPERTY OF  
30 THE UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

31                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 October 1, 1996.