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By: **Eastern Shore Delegation, Western Maryland Delegation, Southern Maryland Delegation, and Harford County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance**  
3 **Program Act of 2000**

4 FOR the purpose of creating the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural  
5 Development Assistance Program to be administered by the Board of Public  
6 Works; stating legislative findings and the purposes of this Act; requiring the  
7 Governor to appropriate a certain amount of money in certain fiscal years to  
8 fund the Program; requiring the Board of Public Works to grant certain amounts  
9 of the funds in the Program to certain organizations that support the regional  
10 economic and community development needs of rural areas of the State;  
11 providing certain additional grant funding for advance technology centers that  
12 support economic development needs of rural areas; requiring certain reports to  
13 be submitted to certain entities and officials; providing that this Act does not  
14 affect the annual appropriation in the State budget for certain organizations;  
15 providing for the construction of this Act; providing for the termination of this  
16 Act; and generally relating to agricultural education and rural development  
17 assistance in the State.

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - State Finance and Procurement  
20 Section 2-206  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

25 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

26 2-206.

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

1 (2) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

2 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
3 AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

4 (B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

5 (1) MANY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE  
6 RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE EXPERIENCE FRUSTRATION IN ADDRESSING THE  
7 AREAS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE AND  
8 FORESTRY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF THE INADEQUACY OF FUNDING RESOURCES  
9 FOR THEM;

10 (2) THESE ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT HAVE THE ACCESS TO PRIVATE AND  
11 PUBLIC SOURCES OF FUNDING THAT ARE GENERALLY MORE AVAILABLE TO  
12 NONPROFIT GROUPS THAT SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE METROPOLITAN AREAS OF  
13 THE STATE; AND

14 (3) AS A RESULT, THE RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE FACE A SERIOUS  
15 DEFICIT OF RESOURCES WHERE THE NEED, IN MANY INSTANCES, IS GREATEST.

16 (C) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL  
17 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE  
18 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

19 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO RURAL  
20 REGIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND RURAL  
21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHOSE MISSIONS AND WORK HAVE  
22 STATEWIDE IMPLICATIONS AND MERIT STATE SUPPORT. THE PROGRAM ALSO IS  
23 INTENDED TO AUGMENT THE EFFORTS OF RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT  
24 SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH ENHANCED TRAINING AND  
25 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

26 (D) (1) BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2001 AND IN FISCAL YEARS 2002, 2003,  
27 AND 2004, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE BOARD \$743,000 IN EACH OF  
28 THOSE FISCAL YEARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PROGRAM.

29 (2) FROM THE APPROPRIATION PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
30 THIS SUBSECTION, THE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS IN EACH FISCAL YEAR TO  
31 THE FOLLOWING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

32 (I) THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
33 \$25,000;

34 (II) THE MARYLAND RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION - \$25,000;

35 (III) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION  
36 AGENCIES - \$25,000;

37 (IV) THE MARYLAND RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - \$25,000;

1 (V) THE MARYLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/ RURAL  
2 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - \$100,000;

3 (VI) THE FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND - \$81,000;

4 (VII) THE MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION - \$25,000;

5 (VIII) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM -  
6 \$25,000;

7 (IX) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION  
8 DISTRICTS/MARYLAND ENVIRONTHON PROGRAM - \$25,000;

9 (X) THE AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST/MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION -  
10 \$25,000;

11 (XI) THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION -  
12 \$100,000;

13 (XII) THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WESTERN MARYLAND - \$42,000;

14 (XIII) THE DELMARVA ADVISORY COUNCIL - \$90,000;

15 (XIV) THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND  
16 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - \$10,000;

17 (XV) THE WESTERN MARYLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND  
18 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - \$10,000; AND

19 (XVI) THE EASTERN SHORE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND  
20 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - \$10,000.

21 (E) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER  
22 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2001 AND IN FISCAL  
23 YEARS 2002, 2003, AND 2004, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE BOARD IN  
24 EACH OF THOSE FISCAL YEARS \$100,000 TO FUND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTERS  
25 THAT SERVE AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES BASED SMALL BUSINESSES  
26 IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGES LOCATED IN THOSE AREAS.

27 (2) THE BOARD SHALL DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND  
28 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE AGENCY TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT FUNDING  
29 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

30 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
31 SHALL AWARD GRANTS FROM THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER  
32 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON THE BASIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
33 A GRANT REVIEW BOARD THAT SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS  
34 SUBSECTION.

35 (4) THE GRANT REVIEW BOARD SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE  
36 SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S

1 DESIGNEE, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, AND  
2 THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND OR THE CHAIRMAN'S  
3 DESIGNEE.

4 (F) (1) EACH ORGANIZATION LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS  
5 SECTION THAT RECEIVES THE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE  
6 WITH AMOUNTS SPECIFIED IN THAT SUBSECTION AND EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
7 THAT RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
8 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BOARD, THE GOVERNOR,  
9 THE FORVM FOR RURAL MARYLAND, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE  
10 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A WRITTEN REPORT THAT  
11 SETS FORTH IN CLEAR DETAIL HOW THE ORGANIZATION SPENT OR OTHERWISE  
12 USED THE FUNDS.

13 (2) THE REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED AT THE END OF THE FISCAL  
14 YEAR IN WHICH THE FUNDS WERE RECEIVED.

15 (G) BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2002, BEFORE AN ORGANIZATION LISTED  
16 IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION RECEIVES THE GRANT FUNDING SPECIFIED IN  
17 THAT SUBSECTION, THE ORGANIZATION SHALL CERTIFY TO THE BOARD EITHER  
18 THAT IT:

19 (1) OBTAINED AN EQUAL MATCHING FUND FROM A SOURCE OTHER  
20 THAN THE STATE IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR FISCAL YEAR; OR

21 (2) HAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF A COMMITMENT OF A THIRD PARTY  
22 FUNDING SOURCE TO PROVIDE AN EQUAL MATCHING AMOUNT OF FUNDING IN THE  
23 CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act may  
25 be construed to affect the annual appropriation to any of the organizations listed in §  
26 2-206(d)(2) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, as added by Section 1 of  
27 this Act. This Act shall be construed to provide funding assistance to the  
28 organizations listed in § 2-206 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, as  
29 added by Section 1 of this Act, in addition to any funds that were provided by the  
30 State to those organizations in fiscal year 2000.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act may  
32 be construed to reduce or otherwise affect the annual appropriation to the Tri-County  
33 Council for Southern Maryland, including any revenues that may be derived from  
34 non-State sources.

35 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
36 July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June  
37 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
38 abrogated and of no further force and effect.