
By: Senator Ferguson

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 1997

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Golf Facilities - Use of State or Local 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, purchase, expansion, or subsidization of a
5 golf facility; providing that a political subdivision or unit of State government may
6 continue to own and maintain a facility that it owned and maintained prior to a
7 certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to prohibiting the use of
8 public funds for golf facilities.

9 BY adding to

10 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
11 Section 15-101 to be under the new title "Title 15. Use of Political Subdivision
12 Public Funds for Golf Facilities"
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1996 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to

16 Article - Natural Resources
17 Section 5-1801 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 18. Use of Public Funds for
18 Golf Facilities"
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

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

24 TITLE 15. USE OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GOLF FACILITIES.

25 15-101.

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

28 (2) "GOLF FACILITY" MEANS:

2

1 (I) AN AREA OF LAND, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A GOLF COURSE,
2 THAT HAS A SERIES OF NINE OR MORE HOLES, EACH INCLUDING A TEE, FAIRWAY,
3 PUTTING GREEN, AND ONE OR MORE NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL HAZARDS FOR THE
4 GAME OF GOLF; OR

5 (II) AN AREA OF LAND, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A DRIVING RANGE,
6 THAT HAS A MINIMUM OF 15 TEES, 150 FEET OF TEEING AREA, AND AT LEAST 600
7 FEET INTO WHICH GOLF BALLS MAY BE HIT OR DRIVEN.

8 (3) "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" MEANS:

9 (I) A COUNTY;

10 (II) A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;

11 (III) A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT; OR

12 (IV) A PUBLIC CORPORATION OF THE STATE.

13 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
14 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
15 PURCHASE, EXPANSION, OR SUBSIDIZATION OF A GOLF FACILITY.

16 (2) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT OWNS AND MAINTAINS A GOLF
17 FACILITY PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1997, MAY CONTINUE TO OWN AND MAINTAIN THAT
18 GOLF FACILITY.

19 **Article - Natural Resources**

20 **SUBTITLE 18. USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GOLF FACILITIES.**

21 5-1801.

22 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "GOLF FACILITY" MEANS:

23 (1) AN AREA OF LAND, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A GOLF COURSE, THAT
24 HAS A SERIES OF NINE OR MORE HOLES, EACH INCLUDING A TEE, FAIRWAY,
25 PUTTING GREEN, AND ONE OR MORE NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL HAZARDS FOR THE
26 GAME OF GOLF; OR

27 (2) AN AREA OF LAND, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A DRIVING RANGE,
28 THAT HAS A MINIMUM OF 15 TEES, 150 FEET OF TEEING AREA, AND AT LEAST 600
29 FEET INTO WHICH GOLF BALLS MAY BE HIT OR DRIVEN.

30 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
31 UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE
32 CONSTRUCTION, PURCHASE, EXPANSION, OR SUBSIDIZATION OF A GOLF FACILITY.

33 (2) A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT OWNS AND MAINTAINS A
34 GOLF FACILITY PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1997, MAY CONTINUE TO OWN AND MAINTAIN
35 THAT GOLF FACILITY.

36 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
37 October 1, 1997.

