
By: Senators Dorman and Amoss

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Assigned to: Rules

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **University of Maryland System - Sale of Great Oaks Center - Disposition of Proceeds**

3 FOR the purpose of directing that a certain part of the proceeds from the sale of the
4 Great Oaks Center be deposited directly into the endowment maintained and
5 managed by the University of Maryland System and used by the University of
6 Maryland System for certain purposes; directing that a certain other part of the
7 proceeds be used by the University of Maryland System for certain other purposes;
8 and generally relating to the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Great Oaks
9 Center.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, In 1939 the University of Maryland acquired 158 acres in Silver Spring,
12 Maryland and established a farm dedicated to agronomic and horticultural research; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1968 the University of Maryland transferred its 158 acre farm to the
14 State of Maryland, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, for the purpose of
15 supporting the development of the Great Oaks Center, a residential treatment center for
16 the developmentally disabled; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1982 the State of Maryland made available to the University of
18 Maryland at College Park 38 acres of the Great Oaks Center for the support and
19 development of a turfgrass research farm; and

20 WHEREAS, After receiving the 38 acres, the University developed a nationally
21 recognized turfgrass research farm, investing more than \$700,000 in capital and other
22 improvements; and

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1 WHEREAS, The turfgrass research farm of the University is utilized intensively,
2 represents more than a decade of planning and cooperation between the University and
3 private industry, and serves as a model partnership for environmentally beneficial
4 research and education programs involving the University, private industry, and the U. S.
5 Department of Agriculture; and

6 WHEREAS, A 1995 Maryland turfgrass survey indicated that the Maryland
7 turfgrass industry fosters more than \$955 million in economic activity in the State of
8 Maryland; and

9 WHEREAS, The Maryland Turfgrass Council and the turfgrass industry are very
10 supportive of the University of Maryland's turfgrass research farm and contribute more
11 than \$150,000 in annual gifts and equipment; and

12 WHEREAS, The cooperative research at the University's turfgrass research farm
13 produces technologies that reduce the input of pesticides, labor, irrigation, and other
14 costly factors necessary to producing turfgrass for commercial, recreational, and home
15 use; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1995 the State of Maryland made the decision to close the Great
17 Oaks Center, and in 1996 the Board of Public Works approved a contract disposing of the
18 property for redevelopment, as a result of which the University must relocate its turfgrass
19 research farm; and

20 WHEREAS, The contract calls for the payment of \$2,300,000 of the purchase price
21 to the University of Maryland System; now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 MARYLAND, That:

24 (a) (1) In this Act the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (2) "Contract" means the purchase and sale agreement by and between the
26 State of Maryland and Silver Oaks Campus, LLC, dated October 30, 1996, and approved
27 by the Board of Public Works as agenda item 47-RP on October 30, 1996.

28 (3) "Endowment" means the endowment funds maintained and managed by
29 the University of Maryland System pursuant to the provisions of § 12-104(d) of the
30 Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

31 (4) "Turf farm endowment" means a portion of the turf farm proceeds in
32 the amount of \$1,200,000.

33 (5) "Turf farm proceeds" means proceeds in the amount of \$2,300,000 from
34 the sale of the Great Oaks Center, located in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties,
35 which, under the contract, are payable to the University of Maryland System.

36 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the turf farm proceeds,
37 under the contract, from the sale of the turfgrass research farm, shall be applied as set
38 forth in this Act.

39 (2) The turf farm endowment shall be delivered to the University of
40 Maryland System and deposited directly into the endowment.

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1 (3) The University of Maryland System shall maintain, manage, invest,
2 reinvest, and expend the turf farm endowment and investment earnings thereon generally
3 for the support of the University of Maryland College Park turfgrass research program, in
4 accordance with the policies and practices generally applicable to the endowment.

5 (4) Any turf farm proceeds, under the contract, from the sale of the
6 turfgrass research farm that are in excess of the turf farm endowment shall be used by the
7 University of Maryland System for the planning, engineering, development, construction,
8 and installation of an experimental turf farm facility and ancillary improvements in
9 accordance with § 12-105 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 1997.