

SENATE BILL 679

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C8

2000 Regular Session
0lr2021
CF 0lr1195

By: **Senators Middleton, Colburn, Dyson, Ferguson, Hafer, Haines, Hooper,
Jacobs, McCabe, Mooney, Munson, Neall, and Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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 ENVIRONMENTAL 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.