SENATE BILL 219

By: **Senator Frosh** Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2007 Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments Senate action: Adopted Read second time: February 20, 2007

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Estates and Trusts – Donation of Conservation Easements

FOR the purpose of clarifying that certain persons may donate a conservation easement on real property <u>for a certain purpose</u> if certain governing instruments authorize the donation; <u>clarifying that a certain trustee or</u> <u>fiduciary may consent to a donation of a conservation easement on real property</u> <u>by a personal representative for a certain purpose if the governing instrument</u> <u>authorizes the donation;</u> providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to donation of conservation easements on real property.

- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 11 Article Estates and Trusts
- 12 Section 7–401(dd), 14–111(b), and 15–102(aa)
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

- 16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 17

Article – Estates and Trusts

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. <u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill. Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **7–401**.

(dd) A personal representative may donate a conservation easement on any
real property in order to obtain the benefit of the estate tax exclusion allowed under §
2031(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if:

5 (1) The will **AUTHORIZES OR** directs the personal representative to 6 donate a conservation easement on the real property; or

7 (2) Each interested person who has an interest in the real property 8 that would be affected by the conservation easement consents in writing to the 9 donation.

10 14–111.

11 (b) A trustee may donate a conservation easement on any real property, or 12 consent to the donation of a conservation easement on any real property by a personal 13 representative of an estate of which the trustee is a legatee, in order to obtain the 14 benefit of the estate tax exclusion allowed under § 2031(c) of the United States 15 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if:

16 (1) The governing instrument AUTHORIZES OR directs the donation of
 a conservation easement on the real property; or

- 18 (2) Each beneficiary who has an interest in the real property that 19 would be affected by the conservation easement consents in writing to the donation.
- 20 15–102.

(aa) A fiduciary may donate a conservation easement on any real property, or consent to the donation of a conservation easement on any real property by a personal representative of an estate of which the fiduciary is a legatee, in order to obtain the benefit of the estate tax exclusion allowed under § 2031(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if:

(1) The governing instrument AUTHORIZES OR directs the donation of
 a conservation easement on the real property; or

(2) Each beneficiary who has an interest in the real property that
 would be affected by the conservation easement consents in writing to the donation.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be 2 construed to apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to apply to the 3 donation of a conservation easement from an estate of a decedent who died on or after 4 January 1, 1998.

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 6 October 1, 2007.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.