

## Chapter 576

**(House Bill 812)**

AN ACT concerning

**Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – Funding**

FOR the purpose of altering the amount of an appropriation that the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill each year for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; repealing the termination of certain provisions of law that require the Governor to include the appropriation in the annual budget bill each year and the Council to use the appropriation to fund the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission; and generally relating to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Economic Development  
Section 13-601(a) and (c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Economic Development  
Section 13-611(b)(3)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Chapter 187 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022  
Section 2

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

**Article – Economic Development**

13-601.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (c) “Council” means the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

13-611.

(b) (3) (i) The Governor shall include in the State budget for the following fiscal year an appropriation to partially support the Council.

(ii) 1. For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of ~~[\$900,000]~~ **\$1,000,000** to the Council from the Cigarette Restitution Fund established under § 7-317 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

~~2. THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION EQUAL TO 5% OF THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO THE STATE FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR UNDER THE MASTER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AS DEFINED IN § 16-402 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE TO THE COUNCIL FROM THE CIGARETTE RESTITUTION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-317 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

~~2.3.~~ The Council shall use funds appropriated from the Cigarette Restitution Fund for the purpose of funding the activities of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

~~3.4.~~ The appropriation required under subparagraph 1 of this subparagraph shall be in addition to, and may not supplant, any funding appropriated to the Council.

### Chapter 187 of the Acts of 2022

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. [It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**