

remainder of the cost of such bridge, estimated to cost approximately \$1,500,000, shall be paid by Worcester County, and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to such Chapter 647 Worcester County has imposed additional real estate taxes on privately owned land on Assateague Island in Maryland; paid the State Roads Commission certain monies toward its share of the cost of the bridge and authorized and sold certain county bonds the proceeds of which are to be used to further pay the State Roads Commission toward its share of the cost of such bridge, and

WHEREAS, Proposed legislation has been introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States, which, if enacted into law, authorizes the United States to acquire that portion of Assateague Island located in Maryland, which has not heretofore been acquired by the State of Maryland for park purposes, and to develop the area as a National Seashore Park. Such legislation also provides that the Department of the Interior shall pay the State of Maryland two-thirds of the construction cost of such bridge provided the State operates such bridge as a toll free structure, and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department of the Interior has indicated his approval of such legislation and urged its passage, and

WHEREAS, If legislation is enacted that authorizes an Agency of the United States Government to acquire and develop the remainder of Assateague Island as a National Seashore Park thus depriving Worcester County from levying and collecting real estate taxes on land that is now privately owned on the Island, it is the sense of the Legislature that Worcester County should be relieved of all obligation heretofore imposed upon the County for its share toward the cost of such bridge.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That: (a) If legislation is enacted by the Congress of the United States and approved by the President of the United States under which the United States, or an Agency thereof, is authorized to acquire that portion of Assateague Island in Maryland not now owned by the State of Maryland, the State Roads Commission shall repay to Worcester County such sums of money as such County has heretofore paid such Commission as its share, or a portion of its share, toward the cost of the construction of the bridge over Sinepuxent Bay between Assateague Island and the mainland of Worcester County, and, in addition, Worcester County is to be relieved from paying any further amount toward the cost of such bridge. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature that if legislation now pending before Congress is enacted into law, Worcester County shall not be required to contribute any further sum whatsoever toward the cost of the bridge, and shall be reimbursed all sums heretofore expended in connection therewith.

(b) If legislation is enacted into law providing for the acquisition of the remainder of the Island not owned by the State of Maryland by an Agency of the United States Government a representative or representatives of Worcester County, the Board of Public Works and the State Roads Commission shall determine what sum of money shall be paid back to Worcester County in order that such County shall not be required to pay any of the cost of such bridge and such sum shall include the cost of the aforementioned bond issue as well as the cost