SECTION 2. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved May 22, 1997.

CHAPTER 589

(Senate Bill 444)

AN ACT concerning

Garrett County – Procurement – *Reciprocal* Local Preference

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Garrett County to establish a local percentage preference *program* applicable to competitively bid contracts; specifying provisions that an ordinance or resolution establishing a preference shall include; authorizing the County Commissioners to provide that a preference is unavailable under certain contracts or is available to an out-of-county business under certain circumstances; authorizing the County Commissioners to establish additional eligibility requirements; capping the amount of a preference *providing that a preference may be provided if the state or political subdivision in which a nonresident firm is located gives an advantage to its resident businesses; specifying the type of preference that may be granted*; providing that a local preference is not available under specified circumstances; defining a certain term *terms*; and generally relating to authorization for the County Commissioners of Garrett County to establish a local percentage preference *program* for certain procurements.

BY adding to

    The Public Local Laws of Garrett County

    Section 20–14.1

    Article 12 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

    (1985 Edition and December 1996 Supplement, as amended)

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

Article 12 – Garrett County

20–14.1.

    A. IN THIS SECTION, "LOCAL BUSINESS" MEANS A BUSINESS THAT MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE BONA FIDE BUSINESS IN GARRETT COUNTY AS DEFINED AND EVIDENCED BY CRITERIA SET BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION.

    B. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION A LOCAL PERCENTAGE PREFERENCE, NOT TO EXCEED 2%, UNDER WHICH A QUALIFYING LOCAL BUSINESS THAT SUBMITS A RESPONSIVE BID THAT