

and the purposes of this Act; ~~requiring the Governor to appropriate a certain amount of money in certain fiscal years to fund the Program; requiring the Board of Public Works to grant certain amounts of the funds in the Program to certain organizations that support the regional economic and community development needs of rural areas of the State; providing certain additional grant funding for advance technology centers that support economic development needs of rural areas; providing for the purpose of the Fund; providing that expenditures from the Fund may only be made under certain circumstances; requiring the Board of Public Works to designate the Department of Business and Economic Development to administer grant funding under the Fund; establishing the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Board; providing for the composition and duties of the Board; requiring the Board to give certain organizations funding priority under certain circumstances beginning in a certain fiscal year; requiring certain reports to be submitted to certain entities and officials; providing that this Act does not affect the annual appropriation in the State budget for certain organizations; providing for the construction of this Act; providing for the termination of this Act; defining certain terms;~~ and generally relating to agricultural education and rural development assistance in the State.

BY adding to

Article - State Finance and Procurement

Section 2-206

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

Article - State Finance and Procurement

2-206.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "BOARD" MEANS THE ~~BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS~~ MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BOARD.

(3) ~~"PROGRAM"~~ "FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ~~PROGRAM~~ FUND.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(1) MANY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE EXPERIENCE ~~FRUSTRATION~~ FISCAL DIFFICULTIES IN ADDRESSING THE AREAS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF THE INADEQUACY OF FUNDING RESOURCES FOR THEM;