

WHEREAS, Garrett County has a low population with 26,498 residents according to the 1980 census; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Garrett County has a declining tax base because of the ownership of a large amount of land in Garrett County by the State of Maryland, which in 1980 amounted to 73,236 acres in the following areas:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Garrett State Forest	6,824
Potomac State Forest	10,686
Savage River State Forest	52,811
Big Run State Park	300
Casselman Bridge State Park	4
Deep Creek Lake State Park	1,776
Herrington Manor State Park	365
New Germany State Park	213
Swallow Falls State Park	<u>257</u>
Total acreage	73,236; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the provisions of § 5-207 (a) of the Natural Resources Article and Section 11T of Chapter 403 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1969, as amended by Chapter 679 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1983 the General Assembly intends this Act to prevent the State from using any funds to acquire any additional land in Garrett County, whether those funds are from Program Open Space or otherwise; now, therefore,

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

Article - Natural Resources

5-207.

(a) (1) The Department may purchase and manage lands in the name of the State, suitable for forest culture, reserves, watershed protection, State parks, scenic preserves, historic monuments, parkways, and State recreational reserves, using for these purposes any special appropriation or surplus money not otherwise appropriated, which is standing to the credit of the Forest Reserve or Park Reserve Fund. However, an individual tract of land in excess of 100 acres may not be purchased in Garrett County, except with the approval of the county commissioners of that county. The Department may accept any gift of land in the name of the State to be held, protected, and administered by the Department as State parks, forests, or other reserves, and used