

WHEREAS, A priority of this Act is to have the Department of Natural Resources purchase the scenic corridor of the Youghiogheny River from Sang Run to Friendsville; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has established in law a strict limitation that the total number of acres of land that the Department of Natural Resources may own in Garrett County is equal to the total number of acres of land owned by the Department on June 30, 1986; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources agrees with the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County and the members of the General Assembly who represent Garrett County that the Department's ownership of land in Garrett County should be limited as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources, the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, and the members of the General Assembly who represent Garrett County agree that the Department has legitimate needs to acquire certain other acres of land or acres of land in Garrett County, including on February 24, 1987 a critical need to acquire land within the scenic corridor of the Youghiogheny River, as defined in § 8-408(b) of the Natural Resources Article, and other land elsewhere in Garrett County to consolidate its geographically separated holdings in the County; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources intends to meet its needs for land in Garrett County by acquiring the land only from willing sellers; and

WHEREAS, Certain owners of land in the scenic corridor of the Youghiogheny River and elsewhere in Garrett County are presently willing and desirous of selling their land to the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly intends this Act to establish a workable framework within which the Department of Natural Resources and the residents and elected officials of Garrett County can work cooperatively to implement the strict limitation on the number of acres of land in Garrett County owned by the Department on June 30, 1986; 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