

(III) 10% TO PROGRAM OPEN SPACE, FOR LAND ACQUISITION AS SPECIFIED IN § 5-903(A)(2) OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of this Act shall govern the distribution of funds as contained in Chapter _____ (H.B. 175) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997 for fiscal year 1998 to the extent provisions of this Act provide for an allocation of funds different from that provided for in the Budget Bill, Chapter _____ of the Acts of 1997 (H.B. 175), it is the intent of the General Assembly that the allocation provided under this Act shall control. The Governor is hereby authorized to transfer funds by approved budget amendment to the extent required to effect the fund allocation provided under this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial members of the advisory committee to the Rural Legacy Board shall expire as follows:

- (1) 4 members in fiscal 2000;
- (2) 4 members in fiscal 2001; and
- (3) 2 3 members in fiscal 2002.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

Approved May 22, 1997.

CHAPTER 758

(House Bill 507)

AN ACT concerning

“Smart Growth” and Neighborhood Conservation – Rural Legacy Program

FOR the purpose of creating a Rural Legacy Program in the Department of Natural Resources; establishing a Rural Legacy Board to administer the Program; providing for the membership of the Board; providing that the Program is established to enhance natural resources, agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection by providing funds for the purchase of certain interests in real property; providing for the funding of the Program; specifying criteria that the Board will apply in administering the Program; providing for the approval of certain of the Board's actions by the Board of Public Works; requiring that the Board and an approved sponsor in the Program shall execute a certain grant agreement; providing for an advisory committee to the Board to make recommendations for rural legacy designations; requiring the Board to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly; requiring the Governor to include in the annual capital budget a certain minimum amount; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; authorizing the Governor to transfer certain funds by budget amendment; providing for the composition of the advisory committee; specifying the amount of Program Open Space funds that may be used for capital purposes; defining certain terms; and