

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before October 1, 2002, the Public Service Commission and the Department of Human Resources shall study and report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee on:

- (1) the level of participation in the universal service program during fiscal year 2002;
- (2) the projected needs of the program for fiscal years 2003 and 2004;
- (3) the amounts expended from the universal service program fund during fiscal year 2002;
- (4) the amounts of surplus carried over in the universal service program fund from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2003 under this Act;
- (5) any difficulties that the Commission expects in complying with § 7-512.1(h) of the Public Utility Companies Article at the end of fiscal year 2003; and
- (6) recommendations for simplifying the process of reducing the universal service charge for customers when there are unexpended funds in the universal service program fund at the end of a fiscal year.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 30, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 day and, at the end of June 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved April 25, 2002.

CHAPTER 264

(House Bill 1131)

AN ACT concerning

Local Land Preservation Programs

FOR the purpose of providing for certain declarations of intent; authorizing local governments to adopt local land preservation programs for certain purposes; providing for the funding of local land preservation programs in a certain manner; providing for the acquisition of certain interests in land in certain manners and under certain conditions; requiring the development and review of certain plans in connection with a local land preservation program; providing for the review of certain applications by the Department of Natural Resources ~~and the approval of the applications by the Board of Public Works, subject to the availability of certain funding~~; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt criteria, review certain programs and plans, and make certain support available to local jurisdictions that adopt local land preservation programs;