

(3) THE PROMOTION OF WATER QUALITY IN THIS STATE IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE PROMOTION OF LAND PRESERVATION, REQUIRING INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF THE PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE WATER AND ASSOCIATED LAND RESOURCES AND INVITING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PROTECTION OF WATERSHEDS, INCLUDING ACQUISITION OF LAND AND EASEMENTS FOR WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND

(4) NEW FUNDING SOURCES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND LAND PRESERVATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FORM OF MATCHING GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SO AS TO LEVERAGE AND FULLY UTILIZE ALL AVAILABLE MONEYS AND CREATE INCENTIVES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND LAND CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS.

(B) (1) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY ADOPT A LOCAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM TO ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCE, AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PARK AND RECREATIONAL USES AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WHILE MAINTAINING THE VIABILITY OF RESOURCE-BASED LAND USAGE AND PROPER MANAGEMENT OF TILLABLE AND WOODED AREAS THROUGH ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND TIMBER HARVESTS.

(2) A PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PURCHASE INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY FROM WILLING SELLERS, INCLUDING EASEMENTS, TRANSFERABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS, AND FEE ESTATES.

(3) A PROGRAM SHALL ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND NONPROFIT LAND TRUST ORGANIZATIONS AND ENCOURAGE LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES.

(4) EACH PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL LAW ADOPTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) (1) A PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED BY A CONTINUING, DEDICATED, AND CLEARLY IDENTIFIED LOCAL OR PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCE, NOT DERIVED FROM STATE FUNDS, THAT IS ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE OR LOCAL LAW. FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM MAY NOT BE USED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLANT EXISTING OR PLANNED LOCAL FUNDS DEDICATED TO LAND PRESERVATION.

(2) SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS UNDER § 5-9B-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PROGRAM SHALL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FUNDING EACH YEAR THAT EQUALLY MATCHES LOCALLY PROVIDED FUNDING.

(3) COMMENCEMENT OF STATE FUNDING UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS ALSO SUBJECT TO THE ATTAINMENT OF A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF COUNTIES PARTICIPATING AND A SPECIFIED POPULATION OF PARTICIPATING COUNTIES.