

~~requirements for the minimum number of counties and population for availability of State funding under this section and Section 3 have been met, and Section 2 of this Act takes effect, funding under Section 2 of this Act may continue thereafter notwithstanding any subsequent change in the number of participating counties or level of population.~~

~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not take effect until the State receives appropriate authorization from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to use funding derived from interest on the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund to match local funding for local land preservation programs under this Act; that on or before December 31, 2002, the Governor shall petition the Environmental Protection Agency for that authorization under federal law; and that if the Environmental Protection Agency does not provide appropriate authorization for the matching of local funding for local land preservation programs under this Act on or before December 31, 2003, this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.~~

~~SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.~~

SECTION 5. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources shall collaborate to study and develop viable funding mechanisms, including the leveraging of federal and State funds, to implement State funding to match funding provided by local governments under local land preservation programs under this Act. The departments shall report their findings and recommendations, including any necessary administrative or legislative changes needed to implement these funding mechanisms, on or before October 1, 2002 to the House Appropriations and Environmental Matters committees and the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committees. If the departments identify viable funding mechanisms under this section that do not require legislation for implementation, the departments shall implement State matching funds in accordance with those funding mechanisms and other applicable law and shall notify the committees set forth above in this section and the Department of Legislative Services of that implementation.

SECTION 6. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State shall take the appropriate steps to work in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate federal agencies to identify and secure financial support from the federal government for local land acquisition and preservation programs under this Act.

SECTION 7. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 5 2 of this Act shall take effect June 1, 2002.

SECTION 8. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Sections 4 and 7 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved April 25, 2002.