

CHAPTER 183

AN ACT concerning farmland preservation, appropriating \$30,660,000 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund" for farmland preservation purposes, canceling certain prior appropriations for withdrawn farmland preservation projects, and appropriating \$393,103 and certain interest earnings from farmland preservation bond funds to provide grants for soil and water conservation projects.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. There is appropriated from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), to the State Agriculture Development Committee the following sums to pay the cost of acquisition by the committee of development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80% of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland, and to provide grants to qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland, for farmland preservation purposes for projects approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to the "Agriculture Retention and Development Act," P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.) and the "Garden State Preservation Trust Act," P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.):

(1) \$13,967,975 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund";

(2) \$14,550,000 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," made available due to project withdrawals, canceled obligations, and reallocation of previously appropriated monies for fee simple acquisitions; and

(3) \$2,082,025 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," made available from proceeds received from the resale or lease of farmland previously acquired in fee simple by the committee.

b. Any farmland acquired in fee simple with monies appropriated pursuant to this section shall be offered for resale or lease with agricultural deed restrictions approved by the committee.

2. There is appropriated from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), to the State Agriculture Development Committee such sums from any additional proceeds which may become available by the effective date of this act due to the resale or lease of farmland previously acquired in fee simple by the committee, for the purpose of providing for the cost of acquisition by the committee of fee simple titles to farmland for farmland preservation purposes. Any such farmland acquired in fee simple with moneys appropriated pursuant to this section shall be offered for resale or lease with agricultural deed restrictions approved by the committee.

3. Of the moneys appropriated or reappropriated pursuant to P.L.2001, c.103, P.L.2001, c.104, P.L.2001, c.306, P.L.2002, c.38, P.L.2003, c.80, P.L.2003, c.81, P.L.2003, c.83, P.L.2003, c.273, P.L.2005, c.14, and P.L.2005, c.18 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), the sum of \$14,550,000 is canceled due to project withdrawals, canceled obligations, and the reallocation of previously appropriated monies for fee simple acquisitions.

4. The expenditure of the sums appropriated by sections 1 and 2 of this act is subject to the provisions and conditions of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.) and P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), as appropriate.

5. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development Committee the following sums for the purpose of providing grants to landowners for up to 50% of the cost of soil and water conservation projects approved as eligible for such funding:

a. \$61,122 from the "1992 Farmland Preservation Fund," established pursuant to section 24 of the "Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992," P.L.1992, c.88, made available due to interest earnings;

b. \$331,981 from the "1995 Farmland Preservation Fund," established pursuant to section 25 of the "Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995," P.L.1995, c.204, made available due to interest earnings; and

c. such additional funds as may become available by the effective date of this act from interest earnings from the "1992 Farmland Preservation Fund," established pursuant to section 24 of the "Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992," P.L.1992, c.88, and the "1995 Farmland Preservation Fund," established pursuant to section 25 of the "Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995," P.L.1995, c.204.

6. There is appropriated from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), to the State Agriculture Development Committee the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of purchasing and erecting farmland preservation signs on preserved farmland.

7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007 or on the date of enactment, whichever is later.

Approved September 27, 2007.