

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 166, *approved December 19, 2025*
Senate, No. 4531

1 AN ACT appropriating \$52,798,268 from various farmland
2 preservation funds to the State Agriculture Development
3 Committee for farmland preservation purposes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture
9 Development Committee the sum of \$21,046,028 in the following
10 subtotal amounts, listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this
11 subsection, to pay the cost of acquisition by the committee of
12 development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to
13 provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent of
14 the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland, to provide
15 grants to qualifying tax-exempt non-profit organizations for up to
16 50 percent of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland,
17 for farmland preservation purposes for projects approved as eligible
18 for such funding pursuant to the “Agricultural Retention and
19 Development Act,” P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), the “Green
20 Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond
21 Act of 1995,” P.L.1995, c.204, the “Garden State Preservation Trust
22 Act,” P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.), the “Green Acres,
23 Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of
24 2007,” P.L.2007, c.119, the “Green Acres, Water Supply and
25 Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation
26 Bond Act of 2009,” P.L.2009, c.117, and the “Preserve New Jersey
27 Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.):

28 (1) \$19,864,120 from dedicated corporation business tax
29 revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the
30 State Constitution from the “Preserve New Jersey Farmland
31 Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of the
32 “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50). Of the
33 amount appropriated pursuant to this paragraph, the sum of
34 \$9,803,000 is available due to interest earnings on the dedicated
35 corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section
36 II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution;

37 (2) \$420,085 from the “2009 Farmland Preservation Fund,”
38 established pursuant to section 18 of the “Green Acres, Water
39 Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic
40 Preservation Bond Act of 2009,” P.L.2009, c.117;

41 (3) \$377,455 from the “2007 Farmland Preservation Fund,”
42 established pursuant to section 18 of the “Green Acres, Farmland,
43 Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007,”
44 P.L.2007, c.119;

1 (4) \$363,498 from the “Garden State Farmland Preservation
2 Fund,” established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152
3 (C.13:8C-20); and

4 (5) \$20,870 from the “1995 Farmland Preservation Fund,”
5 established pursuant to section 25 of the “Green Acres, Farmland
6 and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995,”
7 P.L.1995, c.204.

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

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12 2. There is appropriated from the “Preserve New Jersey
13 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
14 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), from
15 the “2009 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to
16 section 18 of the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain
17 Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of
18 2009,” P.L.2009, c.117, from the “2007 Farmland Preservation
19 Fund,” established pursuant to section 18 of the “Green Acres,
20 Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of
21 2007,” P.L.2007, c.119, from the “Garden State Farmland
22 Preservation Trust Fund,” established pursuant to section 20 of
23 P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), from the “1999 Open Space Fund,”
24 established pursuant to the “Open Space – Local Match Program of
25 the Fiscal Year 1999 annual appropriations act,” P.L.1998, c.45,
26 from the “1995 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant
27 to section 25 of the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic
28 Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995,” P.L.1995, c.204,
29 from the “1992 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant
30 to section 24 of the “Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and
31 Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992,” P.L.1992, c.88, from the
32 “1989 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section
33 22 of the “Open Space Preservation Bond Act of 1989,” P.L.1989,
34 c.183, and from the “Farmland Preservation Fund,” established
35 pursuant to section 5 of the “Farmland Preservation Bond Act of
36 1981,” P.L.1981, c.276, to the State Agriculture Development
37 Committee, such sums from any additional proceeds which may
38 become available by the effective date of this act due to the lease or
39 conveyance of land or development easements acquired or funded
40 by the committee, for the purpose of providing for the cost of
41 acquisition, by the committee, of development easements and fee
42 simple titles to farmland for farmland preservation purposes
43 pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of this act.

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

1 3. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
2 Committee the sum of \$3,452,240 from the “Preserve New Jersey
3 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
4 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), for
5 the purpose of providing grants for stewardship activities as defined
6 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-45), including but
7 not limited to, soil and water conservation project activities
8 approved pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-24) and
9 deer-fencing activities approved pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1983,
10 c.32 (C.4:1C-5).

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12 4. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
13 Committee the sum of \$28,300,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey
14 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
15 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), as
16 follows:

17 a. \$25,000,000 for the purpose of providing funding for
18 organizational, administrative and other work and services,
19 including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to
20 administer the applicable provisions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43
21 et seq.);

22 b. \$2,000,000 for the purpose of providing funding for costs
23 associated with the acquisition of development easements on
24 farmland by the committee, including, but not limited to, appraisal,
25 survey, and title costs;

26 c. \$800,000 for the purpose of providing funding for
27 organizational, administrative and other work and services,
28 including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to
29 administer the Garden State Preservation Trust established pursuant
30 to section 4 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-4); and

31 d. \$500,000 for the purpose of providing funding for costs
32 associated with legal advice and representation in connection with
33 the committee’s enforcement of development easements acquired
34 for farmland preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12
35 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

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37 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
38 “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund,” established
39 pursuant to section 8 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016,
40 c.12 (C.13:8C-50), the sum of \$51,616,360 to implement the
41 provisions of this act.

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43 6. The expenditure of the sums approved by this act is subject
44 to the provisions and conditions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
45 seq.), P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1
46 et seq.), P.L.1998, c.45, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989,
47 c.183, P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), and P.L.1981, c.276, as
48 appropriate.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill appropriates \$52,798,268 from various farmland
7 preservation funds to the State Agriculture Development Committee
8 (SADC) for certain farmland preservation purposes.

9 Of the funding provided by the bill, \$21,046,028 is appropriated
10 to the SADC to pay the cost of acquisition by the SADC of
11 development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to
12 provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent of
13 the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland, and to
14 provide grants to qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations for
15 up to 50 percent of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to
16 farmland, for farmland preservation purposes for projects approved
17 as eligible for such funding pursuant to: the “Agricultural
18 Retention and Development Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland and
19 Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”; the
20 “Garden State Preservation Trust Act”; the “Green Acres,
21 Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of
22 2007”; the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection,
23 and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”; and the
24 “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

25 In addition, this bill appropriates \$3,452,240 from the “Preserve
26 New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC for the
27 purpose of providing stewardship grants for activities, beyond
28 routine operation and maintenance, undertaken by landowners, or
29 farm operators as agents for landowners, to repair, restore, or
30 improve lands preserved for farmland preservation purposes,
31 including but not limited to, soil and water conservation project
32 activities and deer-fencing activities.

33 The appropriations in this bill for the acquisition of fee simple
34 titles and development easements to farmland and for stewardship
35 grants have been approved by the SADC and the Garden State
36 Preservation Trust.

37 The bill also appropriates to the SADC such sums from any
38 additional proceeds which may become available by the effective
39 date of the bill due to the lease or conveyance of farmland
40 previously acquired in fee simple by the SADC, for the purpose of
41 providing for the cost of acquisition by the SADC of development
42 easements and fee simple titles to farmland for farmland
43 preservation purposes.

44 This bill also appropriates from the “Preserve New Jersey
45 Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC: \$25,000,000 for
46 organizational, administrative, and other work and services,
47 including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to
48 administer the applicable provisions of the “Preserve New Jersey

1 Act”; \$2,000,000 for costs associated with administering the direct
2 easement program; \$800,000 for organizational, administrative and
3 other work and services necessary to administer the Garden State
4 Preservation Trust; and \$500,000 for the costs associated with legal
5 advice and representation in connection with the committee’s
6 enforcement of development easements acquired for farmland
7 preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
8 seq.).

9 The “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
10 seq.), implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues
11 pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State
12 Constitution, approved by the voters of the State in November
13 2014, for open space, farmland, and historic preservation. The
14 “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” was established
15 pursuant to section 8 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act.” Of the
16 funding in this bill, \$51,616,360 is from these constitutionally
17 dedicated CBT revenues.

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22 Appropriates \$52,798,268 from constitutionally dedicated CBT
23 revenues and other farmland preservation funds to State Agriculture
24 Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes.