

ASSEMBLY, No. 2444

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 1996

By Assemblymen BATEMAN and KAVANAUGH

1 AN ACT appropriating \$250,000 from the "Green Acres, Clean Water,
2 Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992," P.L.1992,
3 c.88, for farmland preservation.
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. There is appropriated from the "1992 Farmland Preservation
9 Fund," established pursuant to section 24 of the "Green Acres, Clean
10 Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992," P.L.
11 1992, c.88, to the State Agriculture Development Committee the sum
12 of \$250,000 for the purpose of providing a grant to Hillsborough
13 Township, Somerset county, for up to 80% of the cost of acquisition
14 of development easements on farmland located in the township,
15 provided that any funds received for the transfer of a development
16 easement shall be dedicated to the future purchase of development
17 easements. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
18 contrary, no monies made available pursuant to this act for the
19 Hillsborough Township farmland preservation project shall be
20 expended by the township for the acquisition of development
21 easements on farmland located in the township unless the development
22 easements selected by the township for acquisition have been approved
23 by the State Agriculture Development Committee as eligible for such
24 funding.
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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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29 STATEMENT
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31 This bill would appropriate \$250,000 from the "Green Acres, Clean
32 Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992,"
33 P.L.1992, c.88, for farmland preservation. Specifically, the sum
34 appropriated would be utilized to provide a grant to Hillsborough
35 Township in Somerset County for up to 80% of the cost of acquisition
36 of development easements on farmland in the township.

37 This bill is necessary because the township is among the fastest

1 growing municipalities in the State. Development pressure is high
2 there and, thus, the rural character of the municipality is threatened.
3 The citizens of the township have already indicated their strong
4 support for farmland preservation efforts in the area by supporting
5 creation of a municipal open space fund. However, the amount raised
6 from that source is not enough. Seed money from State and county
7 sources is also needed to ensure that the process in the municipality
8 can proceed expeditiously and with maximum impact toward
9 preserving farmland in that area of the State. This bill would provide
10 a State share of the cost thereof and also thereby send a message of
11 support and encouragement from the State with regard to the
12 township's commendable effort to preserve its rural character.

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17 Appropriates \$250,000 from 1992 bond act for farmland preservation
18 in Hillsborough Township, Somerset County.