

INGS AGAINST LANDS AFFECTED BY THE CONVEYANCE OF SUCH SCENIC EASEMENTS, DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND OPEN SPACES OR AREAS, SUCH CONVEYANCES, AND ANY AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO THEREFOR, SHALL NOT BE MATTERS OF EVIDENCE AND SHALL NOT AFFECT THE FAIR MARKET VALUE, OF SAID LANDS, AS IS DETERMINED BY OTHER APPLICABLE RULES OF EVIDENCE.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1965.

Approved May 4, 1965.

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CHAPTER 670

(House Bill 844)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 357A (a) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General"; and to add a new Section 12E to Article 81 of the said Code (1964 Supplement), title "Revenue and Taxes," subtitle "What Shall Be Taxed and Where," to follow immediately after Section 12D thereof; to provide for conveyances to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission of "open spaces or areas" and authorizing every county and municipal corporation to provide for a tax credit with respect to real property taxes based upon land being determined to be an "open space" or "open area" as defined in Section 357A of Article 66C.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the preservation of open space and areas of low-density development in each urban area and its vicinity is necessary for the creation of an efficient and livable environment for the State's growing urban population; and that such preservation is necessary, in particular, for the creation of urban concentrations which can be economically provided with public services, for the establishment of low-density residential communities for those citizens who choose this way of life, for the provision of recreational opportunities for future generations for the conservation of water, soil and other material resources, for the preservation of the scenic and esthetic character of the State's landscape, and for the realization of other important physical, social and economic objectives of public policy; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the rapid growth and spread of urban development is encroaching upon, and eliminating, many open spaces and areas of low-density development which if preserved would constitute important physical, social esthetic or economic assets to existing or impending urban development; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to strengthen and supplement measures already adopted to encourage and assist the preservation of open spaces, including the farmland assessment Act providing for acquisition of development rights; and