

**APPROPRIATION
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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LAWS OF: 2025 **CHAPTER:** 166

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

BILL NO: S4531 (Substituted for A5861)

SPONSOR(S) Burzichelli, John J. and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 5/29/2025

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** --

SENATE: Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 12/08/2025

SENATE: 06/30/2025

DATE OF APPROVAL: 12/19/2025

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (S4531 enacted)

ADVANCE LAW Yes

PAMPHLET LAW Yes

S4531

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): No

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A5861

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): No

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MMcB

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:
7

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.
11

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).

11
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.).

36
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.

42
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.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

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.

18
19
20
21
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.

CHAPTER 166

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

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

1. a. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development Committee the sum of \$21,046,028 in the following subtotal amounts, listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subsection, 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 percent of the cost of acquisition of fee simple titles to farmland, to provide grants to qualifying tax-exempt non-profit organizations for up to 50 percent 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 “Agricultural Retention and Development Act,” P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995,” P.L.1995, c.204, the “Garden State Preservation Trust Act,” P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.), the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007,” P.L.2007, c.119, the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009,” P.L.2009, c.117, and the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.):

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

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

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

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

(5) \$20,870 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.

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 “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), from the “2009 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 18 of the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009,” P.L.2009, c.117, from the “2007 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 18 of the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007,” P.L.2007, c.119, from the “Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund,” established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-20), from the “1999 Open Space Fund,” established pursuant to the “Open Space – Local Match

Program of the Fiscal Year 1999 annual appropriations act,” P.L.1998, c.45, 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, 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, from the “1989 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 22 of the “Open Space Preservation Bond Act of 1989,” P.L.1989, c.183, and from the “Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 5 of the “Farmland Preservation Bond Act of 1981,” P.L.1981, c.276, 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 lease or conveyance of land or development easements acquired or funded by the committee, for the purpose of providing for the cost of acquisition, by the committee, of development easements and fee simple titles to farmland for farmland preservation purposes pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of this act.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. The expenditure of the sums approved by this act is subject to the provisions and conditions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.), P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1999,

c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.), P.L.1998, c.45, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), and P.L.1981, c.276, as appropriate.

7. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 19, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman KEVIN P. EGAN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman ANDREA KATZ

District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

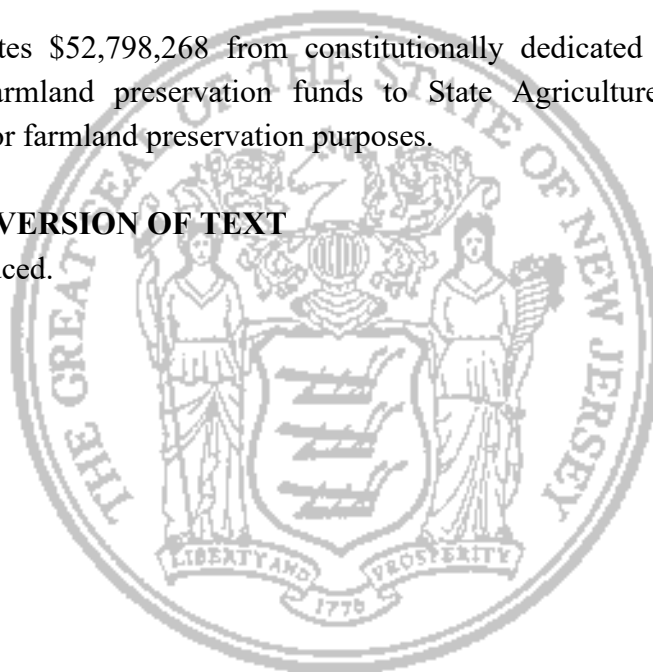
**Senator Space, Assemblywomen Fantasia, Peterpaul, Assemblyman
Freiman, Assemblywoman Drulis and Assemblyman Clifton**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2025)

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:*

7
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;

45 (4) \$363,498 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation
46 Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152
47 (C.13:8C-20); and

1 (5) \$20,870 from the “1995 Farmland Preservation Fund,”
2 established pursuant to section 25 of the “Green Acres, Farmland
3 and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995,”
4 P.L.1995, c.204.

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

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

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

45 3. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
46 Committee the sum of \$3,452,240 from the “Preserve New Jersey
47 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
48 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), for

1 the purpose of providing grants for stewardship activities as defined
2 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-45), including but
3 not limited to, soil and water conservation project activities
4 approved pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-24) and
5 deer-fencing activities approved pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1983,
6 c.32 (C.4:1C-5).

7
8 4. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
9 Committee the sum of \$28,300,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey
10 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
11 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), as
12 follows:

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

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

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

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

32
33 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
34 “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund,” established
35 pursuant to section 8 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016,
36 c.12 (C.13:8C-50), the sum of \$51,616,360 to implement the
37 provisions of this act.

38
39 6. The expenditure of the sums approved by this act is subject
40 to the provisions and conditions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
41 seq.), P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1
42 et seq.), P.L.1998, c.45, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989,
43 c.183, P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), and P.L.1981, c.276, as
44 appropriate.

45
46 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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

Of the funding provided by the bill, \$21,046,028 is appropriated to the SADC to pay the cost of acquisition by the SADC of development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent 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 percent 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 “Agricultural Retention and Development Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”; the “Garden State Preservation Trust Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007”; the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”; and the “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

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

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

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

This bill also appropriates from the “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC: \$25,000,000 for organizational, administrative, and other work and services, including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to administer the applicable provisions of the “Preserve New Jersey Act”; \$2,000,000 for costs associated with administering the direct easement program; \$800,000 for organizational, administrative and other work and services necessary to administer the Garden State

1 Preservation Trust; and \$500,000 for the costs associated with legal
2 advice and representation in connection with the committee's
3 enforcement of development easements acquired for farmland
4 preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
5 seq.).

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

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4531.

As reported, this bill appropriates \$52,798,268 from various farmland preservation funds to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for certain farmland preservation purposes.

Of the funding provided by the bill, \$21,046,028 is appropriated to the SADC to pay the cost of acquisition by the SADC of development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent 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 percent 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 “Agricultural Retention and Development Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”; the “Garden State Preservation Trust Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007”; the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”; and the “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

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

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

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

This bill also appropriates from the “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC: \$25,000,000 for organizational, administrative, and other work and services, including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to administer the applicable provisions of the “Preserve New Jersey Act”; \$2,000,000 for costs associated with administering the direct easement program; \$800,000 for organizational, administrative and other work and services necessary to administer the Garden State Preservation Trust; and \$500,000 for the costs associated with legal advice and representation in connection with the committee’s enforcement of development easements acquired for farmland preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5861

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN P. EGAN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman ANDREA KATZ

District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywomen Fantasia, Peterpaul, Assemblyman Freiman,
Assemblywoman Drulis and Assemblyman Clifton**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2025)

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:*
7

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;

45 (4) \$363,498 from the "Garden State Farmland Preservation
46 Fund," established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1999, c.152
47 (C.13:8C-20); and

1 (5) \$20,870 from the “1995 Farmland Preservation Fund,”
2 established pursuant to section 25 of the “Green Acres, Farmland
3 and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995,”
4 P.L.1995, c.204.

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

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

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

45 3. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
46 Committee the sum of \$3,452,240 from the “Preserve New Jersey
47 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
48 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), for

1 the purpose of providing grants for stewardship activities as defined
2 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-45), including but
3 not limited to, soil and water conservation project activities
4 approved pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-24) and
5 deer-fencing activities approved pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1983,
6 c.32 (C.4:1C-5).

7
8 4. There is appropriated to the State Agriculture Development
9 Committee the sum of \$28,300,000 from the “Preserve New Jersey
10 Farmland Preservation Fund,” established pursuant to section 8 of
11 the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-50), as
12 follows:

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

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

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

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

32
33 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
34 “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund,” established
35 pursuant to section 8 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016,
36 c.12 (C.13:8C-50), the sum of \$51,616,360 to implement the
37 provisions of this act.

38
39 6. The expenditure of the sums approved by this act is subject
40 to the provisions and conditions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
41 seq.), P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1
42 et seq.), P.L.1998, c.45, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989,
43 c.183, P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), and P.L.1981, c.276, as
44 appropriate.

45
46 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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

Of the funding provided by the bill, \$21,046,028 is appropriated to the SADC to pay the cost of acquisition by the SADC of development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent 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 percent 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 “Agricultural Retention and Development Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”; the “Garden State Preservation Trust Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007”; the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”; and the “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

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

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

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

This bill also appropriates from the “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC: \$25,000,000 for organizational, administrative, and other work and services, including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to administer the applicable provisions of the “Preserve New Jersey Act”; \$2,000,000 for costs associated with administering the direct easement program; \$800,000 for organizational, administrative and other work and services necessary to administer the Garden State

1 Preservation Trust; and \$500,000 for the costs associated with legal
2 advice and representation in connection with the committee's
3 enforcement of development easements acquired for farmland
4 preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et
5 seq.).

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

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5861

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 19, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5861.

As reported, this bill appropriates \$52,798,268 from various farmland preservation funds to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for certain farmland preservation purposes.

Of the funding provided by the bill, \$21,046,028 is appropriated to the SADC to pay the cost of acquisition by the SADC of development easements on, or fee simple titles to, farmland, to provide grants to counties and municipalities for up to 80 percent 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 percent 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 “Agricultural Retention and Development Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”; the “Garden State Preservation Trust Act”; the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007”; the “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”; and the “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

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

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

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

This bill also appropriates from the “Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund” to the SADC: \$25,000,000 for organizational, administrative, and other work and services, including salaries, equipment, materials, and services necessary to administer the applicable provisions of the “Preserve New Jersey Act”; \$2,000,000 for costs associated with administering the direct easement program; \$800,000 for organizational, administrative and other work and services necessary to administer the Garden State Preservation Trust; and \$500,000 for the costs associated with legal advice and representation in connection with the committee’s enforcement of development easements acquired for farmland preservation purposes pursuant to P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 12/19/2025

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law, with the Governor's recommendation following concurrences by the legislature:

S-1447/A-4053 (Singleton/Lopez, Speight) - Transfers New Jersey Historic Trust from Department of State to DCA and makes certain changes related to trustees and powers

S-2038/A-3581 (Gopal, Cryan/Carter, Quijano) - Requires public institution of higher education to post certain information on institution's website

S-3153/A-4543 (Ruiz, Cryan/Haider, Speight, Sumter) - Prohibits DCF from using federal benefits received by a child in out of home placement to reimburse State for cost of child's care, except under certain circumstances

S-4400/A-5547 (Johnson, Turner/Verrelli) - Extends hours that minor employed by national sports association, league, or team may work under certain circumstances

S-4472/A-5859 (Lagana, Wimberly/Abdelaziz, Tully, Collazos-Gill) - Eliminates five percent down payment requirement for local bond ordinances involving hazard mitigation and resilience projects

S-4524/A-5862 (Turner, Testa/Bailey, Miller, Freiman) - Appropriates \$34 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for county planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes

S-4531/A-5861 (Burzichelli, Testa/Egan, Katz, Donlon) - Appropriates \$52,798,268 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and other farmland preservation funds to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

S-4551/A-5865 (Beach, Space/Bagolie, Calabrese, Spearman) - Appropriates \$3,750,990 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for grants to certain nonprofit organizations for farmland preservation purposes

S-4566/A-5863 (Cruz-Perez/Hutchison, Park, Bailey) - Appropriates \$500,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for municipal planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes

S-4569/A-5864 (Smith, Singleton/Drulis, Reynolds-Jackson, Moen) - Appropriates \$13,640,000 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities for open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects, and for certain administrative expenses

SJR-100/AJR-150 (Singleton/Venezia, Sumter) - Designates July of each year as "Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month" in NJ

A-3802wGR/S-3061 (Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Freiman/Burgess, Pennacchio) - Differentiates certain legal services from traditional insurance products

A-4331wGR/S-3227 (Speight, Atkins, Bagolie/McKnight, Turner) - Establishes licensure for cosmetic retail services

A-4712wGR/S-3504 (Tucker, Marengo/Cryan, Vitale, Johnson) - Establishes Office of Veteran Advocate and ombudsman for DMVA; appropriates funds

A-5130wGR/S-4128 (Schnall, Karabinchak, Calabrese/Moriarty, Wimberly) - Requires enforcing agency to conduct inspection of construction in specified time window

A-5264wGR/S-4100 (Karabinchak, Haider, Spearman/McKeon, Greenstein) - Requires establishment of automated platform to expedite construction code approval of applications to install residential solar energy systems

A-5309wGR/S-4147 (Simmons, Freiman, Donlon/Burzichelli, McKnight) - Permits up to three credits of continuing medical education on menopause to be used by nurses and physicians for license renewal

A-5854wGR/S-4614 (Azzariti/Schepisi, Sarlo) - Allows certain motor vehicle franchisors to sell, lease, or assign vehicles to employees

A photograph of Senator Michael Testa, a man in a dark suit and blue tie, speaking at a podium. He is looking slightly to his left. In the background, other people are partially visible, also at podiums.

Testa Bills for Farmland Preservation Funding Signed into Law

Michael Testa *Posted on December 19, 2025*

A pair of bills from Senator Michael Testa (R-01) that appropriates more than \$86 million in total for farmland preservation purposes was signed into law.

"New Jersey's farming heritage is not just a cornerstone of our economy, it's a way of life," **said Sen. Testa.** "With the Governor's signature to preserve our precious farmland, we're supporting generational family farms, protecting our open spaces, and ensuring that we keep the Garden State, the Garden State."

- [S-4524](#) appropriates \$34 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to the State Agriculture Development Committee for county planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes.
- [S-4531](#) appropriates \$52,798,268 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and other farmland preservation funds to the State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes.

Related News

[ICYMI: Democrats Block Testa Amendment Requiring Feds be Notified When Rapists, Murderers Released](#)

Michael Testa *Posted on March 25, 2026*

[Testa Urges Municipalities to Demand Fair Share in Municipal Aid Slated for Only a Dozen Communities](#)

Michael Testa *Posted on March 13, 2026*

Testa Bill to Improve Public Transit in South Jersey Passes Committee

Michael Testa *Posted on March 02, 2026*

Senate Clears Testa Bill Expanding Access to Life-Saving Medicine in School

Michael Testa *Posted on January 12, 2026*

Testa Condemns Murphy's Attempt to Bypass Legislature on Jury Service for Convicted Felons

Michael Testa *Posted on January 09, 2026*



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A photograph of Senator Michael Testa, a man with glasses wearing a suit and tie, sitting at a desk with a microphone and a water bottle. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, golden light overlay.

Testa Bills for Farmland Preservation Funding Head to Governor's Desk

Michael Testa *Posted on December 10, 2025*

A pair of bills from Senator Michael Testa (R-01) that would appropriate more than \$86 million in total for farmland preservation purposes are heading to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

"New Jersey's farming heritage is not just a cornerstone of our economy, it's a way of life," said Sen. Testa. "By dedicating this money to preserve our precious farmland, we're supporting generational family farms, protecting our open spaces, and ensuring that we keep the Garden State, the Garden State."

- [S-4524](#) would appropriate \$34 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for county planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes.
- [S-4531](#) would appropriate \$52,798,268 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues and other farmland preservation funds to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes.

To speak with Sen. Testa, contact Kyle Fischer, SRO director of communications, at kfischer@njleg.org.

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