



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 86**

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 347

*Senate, March 17, 2015*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. KENNEDY of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS THAT MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE OPEN SPACE UNDER THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 7-131g of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the fair market value of land or  
5 interest in land shall be determined by one or more appraisals  
6 satisfactory to the commissioner and shall not include incidental costs,  
7 including, but not limited to, surveying, development or closing costs.  
8 The commissioner may consider a portion of the fair market value of a  
9 donation of land by an entity receiving a grant as a portion of the  
10 matching funds required under this subsection. A potential grantee  
11 may use funds made available by the state and federal government to  
12 fund not more than [seventy] ninety per cent of the total cost of any

13 project funded under the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-131g(c)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill increases, from up to 70% to up to 90%, the amount of state and federal funds applicants for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program can use to fund their projects.

There is no fiscal impact, as the bill does not authorize additional general fund appropriations or bond funds for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program.<sup>1</sup>

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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<sup>1</sup> As of 2/1/2015 the current unallocated balance in the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program is \$23.0 million with \$10.0 million proposed in both FY 16 and FY 17. The 2014 grant award was \$7,663,455.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 347*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS THAT MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE OPEN SPACE UNDER THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from up to 70% to up to 90%, the amount of state and federal funds applicants for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program can use to fund their projects. Thus, under the bill, applicants must fund at least 10% of their projects, instead of at least 30%.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program***

Under this program, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provides grants to:

1. municipalities to acquire land for open space,
2. nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space and watershed protection,
3. water companies (including municipal utilities) to acquire land that protects drinking water supplies, and
4. distressed municipalities and targeted investment communities to acquire land for open space or restore or protect open space land they already own.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (02/27/2015)