General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 5064**

January Session, 2025

* H B 0 5 0 6 4 E N V 0 3 1 7 2 5 *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND FARMLAND ACCESS PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Department of Agriculture, within available appropriations, may establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of providing grants to hold land for agricultural preservation purposes by any: (1) Agricultural not-for-profit organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time; (2) municipality; (3) group of municipalities; (4) regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, of the general statutes; or (5) group of municipalities that have established a regional interlocal agreement pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339*l*, inclusive, of the general statutes. In carrying out such purpose, any such grant may be expended for developing farmland access and affordability programs, other than such programs that may exist as of the effective date of this section. No grant recipient shall utilize a grant distributed pursuant to such program for any purpose that conflicts with the preservation of farmland, as set forth in chapter 422 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*