P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 139, ***approved December 23, 2020***
Senate, No. 3225

AN ACT appropriating $11,500,000 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues to the State Agriculture Development Committee for municipal planning incentive grants 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 $11,500,000 from dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in 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 municipal planning incentive grants pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c.180 (C.4:1C-43.1) and approved as eligible for such funding pursuant to this section.

b. The following municipalities are eligible for funding, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Agriculture Development Committee providing for a municipal planning incentive grant program, with the monies appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section:

Municipality	**County**	**Amount of Grant**
Upper Deerfield Twp	Cumberland	$500,000
Franklin Twp	Gloucester	$500,000
Woolwich Twp	Gloucester	$1,000,000
Alexandria Twp	Hunterdon	$500,000
Pilesgrove Twp	Salem	$1,000,000
Pittsgrove Twp	Salem	$500,000
Upper Pittsgrove Twp	Salem	$1,000,000
Blairstown Twp	Warren	$500,000
Frelinghuysen Twp	Warren	$500,000
Knowlton Twp	Warren	$500,000
TOTAL		**6,500,000**

c. (1) The following municipalities are eligible for funding, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Agriculture Development Committee providing for a municipal planning incentive grant program competitive grant fund, with the monies appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section:

Municipality	**County**
Hopewell Twp	Cumberland
Upper Deerfield Twp	
Franklin Twp	Gloucester
Woolwich Twp	
Alexandria Twp	Hunterdon
Delaware Twp	
East Amwell Twp	
Franklin Twp	
Holland Twp	
Kingwood Twp	
Readington Twp	
Tewksbury Twp	
Union Twp	
West Amwell Twp	
Hopewell Twp	Mercer
Colts Neck Twp	Monmouth
Holmdel Twp	
Howell Twp	
Manalapan Twp	
Marlboro Twp	
Millstone Twp	
Upper Freehold Twp	
Alloway Twp	Salem
Mannington Twp	
Pilesgrove Twp	
Pittsgrove Twp	
Upper Pittsgrove Twp	
Bedminster Twp	Somerset
Franklin Twp	
Hillsborough Twp	
Montgomery Twp	
Peapack - Gladstone Boro	
Frankford Twp	Sussex
Green Twp	
Blairstown Twp	Warren
Franklin Twp	
Frelinghuysen Twp	
Greenwich Twp	
Harmony Twp	
Hope Twp	
Knowlton Twp	
White Twp	

(2) The maximum grant award a municipality identified in this subsection may receive pursuant to this section is $500,000.

2. 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 $11,500,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

3. The expenditure of the sums appropriated by this act is subject to the provisions and conditions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.), P.L.1999, c.180 (C.4:1C-43.1), P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-1 et seq.), and P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.), as appropriate.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would appropriate $11.5 million to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for municipal planning incentive grants pursuant to a program established by P.L.1999, c.180 (C.4:1C-43.1) for farmland preservation purposes.

The funding in this bill is provided from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution, approved by the voters of the State in November 2014. The "Preserve New Jersey Act," P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.), implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues 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.

Under the bill, 10 municipalities will each receive a "base grant" of either $500,000 or $1 million, as specified in the bill. In addition, those municipalities and 35 additional municipalities identified in subsection c. of section 1 of the bill would also be eligible to compete to receive an additional grant from the "competitive grant fund" pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of the bill, in an amount not to exceed $500,000. A total of 42 municipalities would be eligible for funding under this bill.

The bill appropriates to the "Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund" moneys from the General Fund already constitutionally dedicated to the "Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund" for the purpose of making the appropriations required by this bill.

The allocations and projects listed in the bill have been approved by the SADC and the Garden State Preservation Trust.

Appropriates $11.5 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for municipal planning incentive grants for farmland preservation purposes.