Water Resources – Groundwater Appropriation or Use – Priority Funding Areas

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Department of the Environment to give priority to a public water system that supplies water to ~~a~~ certain priority funding ~~area~~ areas in certain counties when appropriating or using groundwater of the State under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to the appropriation or use of groundwater of the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Environment
Section 5–501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment

5–501.

(a) In order to conserve, protect, and use water resources of the State in accordance with the best interests of the people of Maryland, it is the policy of the State to control, so far as feasible, appropriation or use of surface waters and groundwaters of the State. Also, it is State policy to promote public safety and welfare and control and supervise, so far as is feasible, construction, reconstruction, and repair of dams, reservoirs, and other waterworks in any waters of the State.

(B) (1) ~~WHEN~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY DECLARED IN THIS SECTION, AND PROVIDED THAT IT WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES, WHEN APPROPRIATING ~~OR USING~~ GROUNDWATER OF THE STATE IN CARROLL, FREDERICK, OR WASHINGTON COUNTIES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY GIVE PRIORITY TO A PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES WATER TO ~~A~~:

(I) A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NOT INCLUDING THOSE AREAS ANNEXED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000; OR

(II) A PRIORITY FUNDING AREA ESTABLISHED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, ~~1997~~ 2000, UNDER ~~§ 5–7B–03~~ § 5–7B–02(7) OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.