

private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such privately owned land by such private owner and their successors in interest, or the privately owned land may be exchanged for State owned land in the same county of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Natural Resources. Provided, however, that the State of Maryland shall not transfer to a private owner any mineral interests unless the private owner relinquishes or causes to be relinquished to the State of Maryland the mineral interest in the surrounding land. In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated wildlands area, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as STATE wildlands, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other areas similarly situated.

(o) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this Act as wildlands if ~~(1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by the Legislature.~~

(p) The Department may accept gifts of land or wetlands to the State OR MAKE OTHER AGREEMENTS AS TO THESE LANDS, or may purchase land or wetlands or purchase scenic easements in the name of the State to be held, restored and administered as ~~natural areas~~ STATE WILDLAND AREAS, and may also designate and set aside areas in the State forests and State parks as ~~natural areas~~ WILDLAND AREAS.

(Q) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION AUTHORIZES ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSENT OF THE PROPERTY OWNER AND NO PROPERTY MAY BE ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF THE PROPERTY OWNER.

~~(q)~~ *(R) At the opening of each session of the Legislature, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the Governor for transmission to the Legislature on the status of the STATE wildland system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations he may care to make.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.*

Approved May 24, 1971.

CHAPTER 736

(House Bill 1091)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 14 (b) (3) AND SECTION 15 of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume, 1970 SUPPLEMENT), title "Health," subtitle "Vital Records," to provide that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene of Maryland assume vital records