

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Created in 1969, the Department of Natural Resources traces its origins to the nineteenth century. The first State Geological Survey operated from 1834 to 1841. In 1896 the State Geological and Economic Survey was formed (Chapter 51, Acts of 1896). The State Game Warden's Office was created in 1896 and in 1916 became part of the newly formed Conservation Commission (Chapter 293, Acts of 1896; Chapter 682, Acts of 1916). By 1906 the State Board of Forestry was established (Chapter 294, Acts of 1906). In 1941 several new agencies concerned with conservation were created to supersede these older agencies: the Board of Natural Resources; the Department of Tidewater Fisheries; the Department of Game and Inland Fish; the Department of State Forests and Parks; the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources; and the Department of Research and Education (Chapter 508, Acts of 1941). In 1969 these departments were further consolidated and became the present Department of Natural Resources (Chapter 154, Acts of 1969).

The Department of Natural Resources consists of the following agencies: Capital Programs Administration; Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission; Energy Administration; Forest, Park and Wildlife Service; Maryland Environmental Service; Maryland Environmental Trust; Maryland Geological Survey, Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Board; Natural Resources Police Force; Tidewater Administration; and Water Resources Administration. The Department also includes the Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board, Upper Potomac River Commission, Land Reclamation Committee, Program Open Space Committee, and other advisory bodies. The Department is responsible for the Maryland membership units of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal States Organization, Interstate Mining Commission, Ohio River Basin Commission, Interstate Oil Compact Commission, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Southern States Energy Board and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-101 through 1-104).

BOARD OF REVIEW

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The Board of Review advises the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Board also hears and determines appeals from those decisions of the Secretary or any unit within the Department that are subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedures Act or under any other provision of law.