

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in November, 1998 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.

Enacted April 28, 1998.

CHAPTER 324

(Senate Bill 178)

AN ACT concerning

Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998

FOR the purpose of establishing an Animal Waste Technology Fund as a special, continuing, nonlapsing fund; authorizing the Department of Business and Economic Development to provide financial assistance from the Fund for certain purposes; requiring certain commercial contract feed to contain certain ingredients by a certain date *and to a certain extent; requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to suspend or recommend to the General Assembly the modification or termination of the requirement under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to provide sufficient funding to maintain a certain level of field personnel for soil conservation districts; requiring each nutrient management plan to be developed considering certain factors; authorizing certain State cost sharing for certain costs of having nutrient management plans prepared; establishing certain limits for the cost sharing program; authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations; requiring certain persons to have nutrient management plans and comply with nutrient management plans by certain dates; establishing certain penalties; authorizing the Department of the Environment to take certain action against certain persons under certain circumstances; requiring certain persons to be certified by the Department of Agriculture as nutrient applicators under certain circumstances; establishing certain requirements for certification and certain penalties for failure to be certified* *establishing certain requirements for the certification of nutrient management consultants; establishing certain requirements for certain individuals receiving certain vouchers of completion from the Department of Agriculture; establishing certain requirements for persons applying commercial fertilizers under certain circumstances; altering the membership and responsibilities of the Nutrient Management Advisory Committee; authorizing the Department of Agriculture to adopt certain regulations; requiring the*