

CHAPTER 16.

(Senate Bill 20)

AN ACT to add 14 new sections to Article 89 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Statistics and Information", to be under a new sub-title "Strip Mining", said new sections to be known as Sections 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191 and 192 of said Article, relating to certain strip mining operations except in Garrett County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That 14 new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 89 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Statistics and Information", to be under new sub-title "Strip Mining", said new sections to be known as Sections 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191 and 192 of said Article, said new sections to read as follows:

STRIP MINING

178. This sub-title shall be deemed to be an exercise of the police powers of the State for the general welfare of the people of the State, by providing for the conservation and improvement of areas of land affected in the mining of bituminous coal and fire clay by the open pit or stripping method, to aid thereby in the protection of birds and wild life, to enhance the value of such land for taxation, to decrease soil erosion, to aid in the prevention of the pollution of rivers and streams, to prevent combustion of unmined coal, and generally to improve the use and enjoyment of said lands.

179. (Definitions.) The following words and phrases, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, shall have the following meanings:

"Open pit mining" shall mean the mining or recovery of bituminous coal or fire clay by removing the strata or material which overlies or is above the coal or fire clay deposit or seam in its natural condition.

"Pit" shall mean the place where bituminous coal or fire clay is being mined by the open pit mining methods.

"Operation" shall mean the pit or pits located upon a single tract of land or a continuous pit embracing or extending upon two or more contiguous tracts of land.

"Land" shall mean the surface of the land upon which open pit mining is conducted.