

~~State Streams to identify and assess the environmental quality of the streams of the State; providing for the membership of and staff support for the Task Force; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses under certain circumstances; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues, develop certain options, and make certain recommendations; requiring the Task Force to issue a report by a certain date; and generally relating to the Interdepartmental Task Force on Preservation of State Streams.~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland has an estimated 17,000 miles of streams that supply water for domestic, municipal, agricultural, and industrial uses as well as provide a multitude of recreational, ecological, and aesthetic benefits to the public; and

WHEREAS, These streams are subject to environmental damage as a result of thermal pollution or the runoff of heated water from roadways, the accumulation of sediment from development activities, and the release of pollutants from point and non-point sources; and

WHEREAS, State and local agencies have created programs to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of the waters of the State; and

WHEREAS, Private individuals and civic, environmental, and business organizations have initiated community projects to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of the waters of the State; and

WHEREAS, Despite initiatives taken by public and private organizations, Maryland streams continue to suffer extensive environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, Statewide efforts to protect and enhance stream quality are complicated by the large number of streams, the wide range of impacts, their individual and cumulative effect, and the variety of related activities of government and private organizations; and

WHEREAS, The public interest requires the planning and implementation of a coordinated program for stream preservation to be developed jointly by representatives of appropriate government agencies and the private sector; ~~and~~

~~WHEREAS, A coordinated program for stream preservation can best be carried out by joint management through a State wide clearinghouse that maintains an inventory of streams, targets streams requiring prompt remedial action, and identifies control measures necessary to preserve the streams; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(1) There ~~shall be~~ is an Interdepartmental Task Force on Preservation of State Streams ~~to assess the quality of the streams of the State, target streams for immediate remedial action, and develop site specific techniques to preserve the environmental quality of each stream.~~