

WHEREAS the demand for oysters is constantly increasing and the oyster bars and rocks of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are showing such great depletion that constructive legislation is necessary to preserve and rehabilitate such depleted areas, and,

WHEREAS a Seafood Committee, consisting of representatives from each tidewater county, was appointed by Governor Albert C. Ritchie, to investigate and recommend remedial legislation to increase the oyster supply of Maryland, among which was the recommendation that the State should reserve ten per cent of all shells made by the oyster packing houses to be planted upon reserved and seed areas; therefore:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 91 of Article 72 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Oysters," sub-title "Packing Oysters," providing for licensing of oyster packers be and is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, to read as follows:

91. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation having a fixed place of business, buying oysters and employing labor to prepare them for market to engage in the business of buying, selling, marketing, packing or canning oysters without first taking out a license to engage in such business by application to the Conservation Department of Maryland. Where any such person, firm or corporation operates more than one house for the buying, selling, marketing, packing or canning of oysters, a separate license shall be obtained for each house in which oysters are shucked or otherwise prepared for market; such license to be in the nature and form of a contract between the State of Maryland and the applicant and shall provide for the payment of a license fee of twenty-five dollars, and shall further provide that the licensee must turn over to the State of Maryland at least ten per cent of the shells from the oysters shucked in his establishment for the current season, said shells to be removed on or before the twentieth day of August of said season; or at the discretion of the Conservation Department its equivalent in money, the value thereof being determined at the market value of shells as of the first day of May following the close of the season. The Conservation Department shall notify each packer or canner on or before the said first day of May whether it is its inten-