

CHAPTER 722.

(Senate Bill 338)

AN ACT to add 12 new sections to Article 39A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Forestry", said new sections to be under a new sub-title "Forest Conservancy Districts", said new sections to be known as Sections 53 to 64, inclusive, of said Article, to follow immediately after Section 52 relating to the establishment of State sub-divisions known as Forest Conservancy Districts and Governing Boards and relating to co-operative land use measures.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That 12 new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 39A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Forestry", said new sections to be under a new sub-title "Forest Conservancy Districts", said new sections to be known as Sections 53 to 64, inclusive, of said Article, to follow immediately after Section 52 and all to read as follows:

Forest Conservancy Districts.

53. Forests, timberlands, woodlands and soil resources of the State of Maryland are basic assets, and the proper use, development and preservation of these resources are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the State. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to encourage economic management and scientific development of its forest and woodlands to maintain, conserve and improve the soil resources of the State to the end that an adequate source of forest products be preserved for the people. Floods and soil erosion must be prevented and the natural beauty of the State be preserved, wild life be protected, development of recreational interests be encouraged and the fertility and productivity of the soil be maintained, the impairment of reservoirs and dams be prevented, the tax rate be preserved and the welfare of the people of the State be sustained and promoted. Where such interests can be served through co-operative efforts of private forest land owners, with the assistance of the State, it is declared to be the policy of the State to encourage, assist and guide private ownership in the management and fullest economic development of such privately owned forest lands. Conversely, where the public interests above enumerated cannot be served and adequately protected under private ownership,