

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the General Assembly of Maryland that in litigation presently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland the owners of lands lying in the State of Virginia and bordering on the Potomac River are asserting certain rights to the bed of said river in the State of Maryland in reliance upon Section 572 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition); and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Maryland desires to re affirm its intention that only the owners of riparian lands in the State of Maryland shall have the rights and privileges granted by said Section 572 of Article 27; now therefore

WHEREAS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND DESIRES THAT ONLY OWNERS OF RIPARIAN LANDS WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MARYLAND SHALL HAVE THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES HERETOFORE GRANTED BY SAID SECTION 572 OF ARTICLE 27 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE; NOW, THEREFORE

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 572 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

572. It shall not be lawful for any person to dig, dredge, take and carry away any sand, gravel or other material from the bed of any of the navigable rivers, creeks or branches of this State, under a penalty of a fine not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300), and confiscation of the boat, vessel, dredge and implements used in digging, dredging and carrying away such sand, gravel, or other material, and imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding six months, in the discretion of the court; one-half of said fine and one-half of the proceeds of the sale of such confiscated boat, vessel, dredge and implements, to be paid by the sheriff to the informer, and the other half to the commissioners of public schools for the counties, provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any riparian owner of lands in this State bordering on said rivers, creeks or branches, or for any person or corporation with whom such owner shall have a contract in writing for the purpose, or for the agents, servants or employees of such person or corporation to dig, dredge, take and carry away sand, gravel, or other material from the bed of said river opposite said lands from highwater mark on the shore bordering on said lands to the outer line of the channel nearest said shore, subject to the laws of the United States relating to navigation; and provided further, that none of the provisions of this section shall be deemed to interfere in any manner with the provisions of any law of the State relating to the taking and catching of fish and oysters.

RIPARIAN OWNER OF LANDS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND BORDERING ON SAID RIVERS, CREEKS OR BRANCHES, OR FOR ANY PERSON OR CORPORATION WITH WHOM SUCH OWNER SHALL HAVE A CONTRACT IN WRITING FOR THE PURPOSE, OR FOR THE AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES OF SUCH PERSON OR CORPORATION, TO DIG, DREDGE, TAKE AND CARRY AWAY SAND, GRAVEL OR OTHER MATERIALS FROM THE BED OF SAID RIVER OPPOSITE SAID LANDS FROM HIGH WATER MARK ON THE