

of this State for the propagation of oyster seed; relating to the use and disposition of oyster seed cultivated thereon, and relating generally to such areas for the propagation of oyster seed and the oyster seed produced thereon.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new Section 707 (g-1) be and it is hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources", subtitle "Oysters and Clams", to follow immediately after Section 707 (g) thereof, and that Section 707 (i) of said Article and subtitle be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

707.

*(g-1) The Department of Tidewater Fisheries is authorized to select and reserve for its own use areas within the waters of this State for the propagation of seed oysters, the number, size and location of such areas to be determined from time to time by the Department according to the need therefor. Before reserving an area for such purposes, the Department and the local committees acting in their capacity as pro-tempore, ex-officio members of the Department as hereafter set forth shall first hold a public hearing in Annapolis if such area is to be located in the Chesapeake Bay or if such area is to be located in county waters, in the county seat of the particular county in whose waters the area is to be located. The time, place and purpose of such hearing as well as the intended size and location of the area to be reserved shall be advertised twice a week during the two weeks preceding the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, if the area is to be located within the waters of any county, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the State, if the area is to be located in the Chesapeake Bay. The members of the general public shall be permitted at such hearing to express their views with respect to the necessity for the area to be established and the desirability of the intended size or location thereof. The hearing shall be held before, and the final determination made by, a committee of 10 persons consisting of the five members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission, five members of the local committee as set forth in Section 707 (j) hereof, when the area under consideration is located in County waters, which said local committee shall become ex-officio members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission, pro-tempore, for the purpose of such decision and shall have all of the rights, privileges and authority of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission in relation to the matters as above set forth in this section relating to the area under consideration, including the right to vote one vote for each of the members of the local committee. Each of the five members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission shall have one vote. A majority of the ten votes cast as aforesaid shall be necessary to carry any measure under consideration as herein set forth. The Department shall keep minutes of the hearings and shall file in its office as a public record a statement setting forth its decision and the reasons therefor. If the decision of the Department is to reserve the area in question, a notice of the effective date shall be published for one week prior thereto in the newspaper bearing the notice of the hearing. All seed oysters cultivated in such areas in accordance with provisions of this Act shall*