

CHAPTER 450

(House Bill 338)

AN ACT to add new Sections 411A to 411U, inclusive, to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources", to follow immediately after Section 411 thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Patuxent River Watershed", authorizing the State Department of Forests and Park, together with Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, or their duly designated agencies, to provide for the cooperative acquisition of lands bordering on the Patuxent River for the protection of the watershed, flood control purposes and to further provide for the planning and carrying out of care and maintenance of said lands by the respective counties named herein or their duly designated agencies, to authorize the acceptance of any funds for the purpose, to authorize State and local expenditures for land acquisitions, to authorize a special local tax levy, pertaining generally to the watershed area of the Patuxent River and providing penalties for violations.

WHEREAS, The Legislature finds that the Patuxent River and the land bordering thereon constitute some of Maryland's most scenic natural or esthetic assets, and that rapid growth and spread of urban development is encroaching upon or eliminating many of these bordering lands and contributing to the flooding and silting of the Patuxent River; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a means whereby the State Department of Forests and Parks, together with Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties may cooperatively provide for the protection of the said Patuxent River and for the acquisition and use of the lands bordering thereon, so that the harmful effects of flooding, silting and erosion caused by the expansion of urban development may be discontinued or eliminated; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature declares that it is necessary for sound and proper conservation and flood control purposes, and in the public interest of this State for the State Department of Forests and Parks, together with Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, or their duly designated agencies, to expend or advance public funds for, or to accept by, purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise or lease, the fee or any lesser interest or right in real property to acquire, maintain, improve, protect or limit the future use of lands bordering on, and within, the Patuxent River Watershed; now, therefore

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 411A to 411U, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.