

"Natural Resources", sub-title "Forests and Parks", to follow immediately after Section 411~~U~~ thereof and to be under the new sub-heading "Conservation of Woodland Areas", AND TO ADD A NEW SECTION 19 (C) TO ARTICLE 81 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1957 EDITION), TITLE "REVENUE AND TAXES", SUB-TITLE "METHOD OF ASSESSMENT", establishing a program of forest conservation and management within the Department of Forests and Parks, providing for agreements to participate in this program, establishing certain valuation, assessment, and taxing procedures as to tracts of land included in this program and relating generally to methods and procedures of forest conservation and management in this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new Section 411~~V~~ $\frac{1}{2}$ be and it is hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1962 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", sub-title "Forests and Parks", to follow immediately after Section 411~~U~~ thereof, to be under the new sub-heading "Conservation of Woodland Areas", and to read as follows:

Conservation of Woodland Areas

~~411V.~~ $\frac{1}{2}$.

(a) *A program of forest conservation and management is established under the Department of Forests and Parks, as in this section provided.*

(b) *The Department shall formulate from time to time a program of forest conservation and management, designed to encourage the people of this State to keep or develop lands for productive woodland purposes, to increase the income of the citizens of the State from the sale of timber, to prevent floods and the wasting of the State's soil, to provide open and wooded areas for the use and enjoyment of residents and sojourners in this State, and to promote the welfare and assets of the people of Maryland.*

(c) *The owner of any contiguous tract of land in this State which comprises five or more acres in extent may by agreement with the Department contract to place this tract within the program of forest conservation and management, for such period of time and under such circumstances and conditions as may be provided in the program and required by this section.*

(d) *For the period covered by the contract, the valuation of the tract of land for purposes of assessment for State, county, special tax district and municipal taxes shall not be increased.*

(e) *At the end of the period covered by the contract, or at the time part or all of the timber is harvested, or at the time part or all of the tract is conveyed to a new owner, whichever is the earliest date, there shall be a new valuation of the tract, or portion thereof. If only a portion of the tract is conveyed or if only a portion of the timber is harvested, the new valuation for purposes of assessment shall be as to a part of the whole which is represented by the ratio of the portion of the tract or timber to the whole of the tract or timber.*