

date preservation of the public health and safety, and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved May 4, 1965.

CHAPTER 712
(House Bill 486)

AN ACT to add new Sections 695A to 695M, inclusive, to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Gas and Oil," to follow immediately after Section 695 thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Prince George's County Underground Storage Act," to authorize gas storage companies, as defined, to acquire by eminent domain subject to certain limitations, the use of any privately owned and any publicly owned geological strata lying not less than 800 feet below the surface of a maximum of 12,000 acres of land within a specified area of Prince George's County, for underground storage of gas; requiring as a ~~condition precedent~~ **CONDITIONS PRECEDENT** to the taking by eminent domain of the use of such strata, a finding by the Public Service Commission that the underground storage project is in the public interest; **AND AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE PERMIT** authorizing public bodies, as defined, to grant the use of such strata owned by them to gas storage companies; making provision as to the property rights in and taxation of gas injected into underground storage in Prince George's County, and as to the rights of landowners; **TO PROVIDE FOR THE CAPTURE OF SUCH GAS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES OF THE STATE** and relating generally to the underground storage of gas in Prince George's County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 695A to 695M, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to the Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Gas and Oil," to follow immediately after Section 695 thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Prince George's County Underground Storage Act," and all to read as follows:

695A. *In This Subheading—*

(a) "Gas" means natural gas or manufactured gas of any combination or mixture thereof, whether or not the natural gas has been processed by removal of component parts not essential to its use for light, heat, or power.

(b) "Underground storage" or "underground storage of gas" means the storing of gas in a geological stratum or strata beneath the surface of the earth, together with all operations necessary or convenient therefor, including but not by way of limitation the following: acquisition, preparation, alteration, maintenance, utilization, and operation of an underground storage reservoir for the stor-