

WHEREAS, clear and fixed boundaries cannot be drawn for the administration of each of these natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the administration of these interrelated resources is shared by numerous State, Federal, interstate and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, the activities of numerous natural resources agencies inevitably overlap and result in the duplication or neglect of essential programs; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuous and urgent need for a State agency authorized and empowered to unify and coordinate all natural resources policies and activities within the State without regard to the artificial jurisdictional boundaries between the natural resources agencies;

SECTION 1.

Now therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 1 and 2, 4(a), (b), (c), (d), and 5 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition and 1965 Cumulative Supplement, title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Board of Natural Resources" be and they are hereby repealed and that new Sections 1, 2, 4(a), (b), (c), (d), and 5 be and they are hereby enacted to stand in the place of the sections and subsections repealed and to read as follows:

1.

It is the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of this subtitle to establish a State agency which shall review and evaluate all natural resources policies, plans, programs and practices of State, county, regional and federal agencies and institutions; which shall coordinate all natural resources activities within the State; which shall be a center for collecting and organizing information on the natural resources for the guidance of the Governor and the General Assembly; and which shall otherwise unify and coordinate policies, plans, programs and practices which will insure the preservation, development, wise use and enjoyment of all the natural resources for the greatest benefits to the State and its citizens.

2.

For these purposes there is hereby created a board to be known as the Board of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall consist of a chairman, five departmental members, three ex officio members and eight appointive members.

4.

(a) The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Board, shall serve as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council as provided in Article 41 of this Code, and shall represent the Board of Natural Resources at hearings or meetings of the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly of Maryland, State and interstate conferences and at local meetings or hearings pertaining to any matter of concern to the Board. The Chairman may, from