

## CHAPTER 672

(House Bill 417)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments Sections 343, 344A, and 346 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," and to add new Section 345B to said title, subtitle, and subheading of said Article of the Code, to immediately follow Section 345A thereof, to authorize the Department of Forests and Parks to acquire land to be preserved as "natural areas," to define and classify natural areas, and to provide for the administration of these areas and the duties of the Department of Forests and Parks concerning these areas, amending the laws pertaining to the Department of Forests and Parks to include reference to water, wetlands, streams, valleys and the promotion of leisure interest and to make it mandatory that the Department cooperate with others in the preparation of certain plans.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 343, 344A, and 346 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments; and that new Section 345B be and it is hereby added to said title, subtitle and subheading of said Article of the Code, to immediately follow Section 345A thereof, and all to read as follows:

## 343.

Forests, *streams, valleys, wetlands*, parks, scenic, historic and recreation areas of the State of Maryland are basic assets. Their proper use, development and preservation are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, economic and general welfare of the people of the State. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to encourage the economic development and use of its natural resources for the improvement of local economy, preservation of the natural beauty and promotion of the recreational *and leisure* interest throughout the State.

The Department of Forests and Parks is hereby created to promote, administer and manage all State owned or leased forests, parks, scenic preserves, *natural areas*, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, the administration of all laws, rules and regulations relating to forests, parks, scenic preserves, *natural areas*, parkways, historic monuments and recreation areas, fire control, roadside trees, the restoration of deforested or denuded areas, and the operation of the State forest nursery.

Forest extension work, as now being done on private property, shall continue under the jurisdiction, supervision and direction of the extension service of the University of Maryland.

## 344A.

~~There shall be two divisions within the Department, a Division of Forests, under the direction of the State Forester, and a Division~~