

Resources, ; which Department shall repair the damage done and may turn the matter over to the Attorney General for suit against the person causing the damage, who shall be liable for such damage, and to provide for the disposition of any funds received through such procedure ESTABLISHES A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE CAN RECOMMEND TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT SUIT BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE PERSON LIABLE FOR SUCH DAMAGE; ESTABLISH PROCEDURE FOR REPAIRING THE DAMAGES DONE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF ANY FUNDS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF REPAIRING THESE DAMAGES.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 24A be and it is hereby added to Article 96A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Water Resources," subtitle "Pollution Abatement," to follow immediately after Section 24 thereof, and to read as follows:*

24A.

(a) *Whenever there occurs in the waters of the State any condition indicative of damage to aquatic resources, including, but not limited to, mortality of fish and other aquatic life, it shall be the duty of the Department of Game and Inland Fish in nontidal waters, and of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs in tidal waters, in either case with the assistance of the Department of Water Resources, to investigate the occurrence, to determine the nature and extent of the occurrence, to endeavor to establish the cause and source of the occurrence, and to report its findings to the Department of Water Resources. The Department shall act on these findings, as hereinafter provided, to require the repair of any damage done and the restoration of water resources to a degree necessary to protect the best interests of the people of the State.*

(b) *If upon such investigation, the Department of Game and Inland Fish or the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs is able to identify the person or persons responsible for the damage, it shall so report to the Department of Water Resources, citing all information and data for the finding.*

(c) *The Water Resources Commission, if it believes the institution of suit to be advisable, shall turn over to the Attorney General the information and data supplied to it. The Attorney General thereupon shall file suit against the person or persons causing the condition complained of, who shall be jointly and severally liable for the reasonable cost of rehabilitation and restoration of the resources damaged and the cost of eliminating the condition causing the damage.*

(d) *Any moneys collected pursuant to subsection (c) shall be maintained in a separate fund and shall be utilized TO REIMBURSE by the Department of Game and Inland Fish in nontidal waters, or the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs in tidal waters, for the repair of damage done and for the restoration of the water resources of the State. and reimbursement to the agency or organization causing the harmful conditions to be eliminated for the cost of such operation.*