

54.

Any person or party aggrieved by a final decision of the Department, whether such decision is affirmative or negative in form, or by any rule or regulation of the Department, may *appeal to the Board of Review of the Department of Natural Resources as provided for in Article 41 of the Code.* [file within 30 days of the date of the decision, rule or regulation. The petition shall set forth the grounds and reasons for the petitioner's complaint. The chairman shall set a time and place for the hearing and shall notify the petitioner. At the hearing, the petitioner and any other interested parties may appear in person or by counsel, present witnesses and submit evidence. The chairman or any member of the Commission shall have the power to administer oaths to any witnesses who appear to testify at the hearing. The Commission shall as promptly as possible after the hearing render a final decision on the petitioner's complaint.]

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That new Section 2 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1967 Replacement Volume, and 1968 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," be and it is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

2.

*The Secretary of Natural Resources is directed to make all effort necessary toward the enactment of appropriate intergovernmental agreements with other states to preserve the optimal state of the Chesapeake Bay through the organization of an interstate body to plan, manage, coordinate, and enforce the proper use of the Bay, so that all users of the Bay area can obtain the maximum advantage of the Bay.*

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons who are, on the effective date hereof, Directors, Members of Commissions, Officers and employees of all departments and agencies included within the Department of Natural Resources are hereby confirmed in the office or position which they hold on such date, as Directors, Members of Commissions, Officers and employees of such departments and agencies, except as otherwise provided in this Act or until they retire, resign or are removed as provided by law.

SEC. 12A. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WITH NO DIMINUTION OF SENIORITY, RETIREMENT RIGHTS OR SALARY, AND THEY SHALL CONTINUE AS STATE MERIT SYSTEM EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 64A OF THE CODE, TITLE "MERIT SYSTEM" AND UNDER ARTICLE 73B OF THE CODE, TITLE "PENSIONS"; AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF SENIORITY, RETIREMENT RIGHTS, VACATION, AND SALARY THEY SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR ALL PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM. PERSONS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT SHALL