

RETAIN THEIR MERIT SYSTEM STATUS EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS ACT.

12B. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT ALL BOOKS, PAPERS, FILES, RECORDS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OR IN THE CUSTODY OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO AND BE IN THE OWNERSHIP OR CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CREATED IN THIS ACT.

12C. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT ALL APPROPRIATIONS AND CREDITS ON THE BOOKS, PAPERS, AND ACCOUNTS OF ANY DEPARTMENT OR OTHER AGENCY OF THIS STATE, FOR AND TO THE CREDIT OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, AND ALL LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO AND BECOME THE APPROPRIATIONS, CREDITS, LIABILITIES, AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HEREIN CREATED.

12D. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT ALL REFERENCES TO THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AS IT EXISTED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, ON THE BOOKS, PAPERS, AND RECORDS OF ANY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT OR OF ANY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE OR IN ANY REGULATIONS, ORDERS, OR DIRECTIVES OF ANY SUCH DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY, FROM AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, SHALL BE DEEMED AND CONSTRUED TO BE REFERENCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HEREIN CREATED.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That if any part of this act, or any section or part of the section thereof, shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Act, or any section or part of a section hereof, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed the remaining parts of this act, or sections or parts of sections hereof, if such unconstitutionality or invalidity had been known; and to this end, all parts, sections, and parts of sections of this act are declared to be severable.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws or parts of laws, public general or public local, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SEC. 14A. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT IF SECTION 660 OF ARTICLE 66C OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND IS AMENDED OR OTHERWISE CHANGED BY