

15.

(a) Except as hereinafter provided, [as soon as convenient] *within one month* after the filing with the Department of any application, the Department shall set a day for a public hearing upon the application for any of the following permits: (1) appropriation or use of any waters of the State; (2) construction or reconstruction of a reservoir, dam, or waterway obstruction; (3) construction in a waterway; and (4) dredging or filling or bulkheading or shore line changes.

The applicant shall give notice to the public of the application and hearing [, either in the manner prescribed by the Department, or] by publication once in each week for two successive weeks prior to the hearing in a daily newspaper published in the city or cities, county or counties, [or] and in [a] ~~every~~ MORE THAN ONE weekly newspaper of general circulation in the city or cities, county or counties, which the Department determines may be directly affected by the proposed appropriation or use, or construction, reconstruction, or repair. The county commissioners of each such county, the mayor or chief executive officials of each such city and the proper officials of any interested agency of the State, or political subdivision thereof shall also be notified by the applicant by registered or certified mail. In the public notice of the application, the date, place, and time fixed by the Department for the public hearing on the application shall be stated, at the public hearing, the applicant and any other interested person shall be given an opportunity to present facts, evidence, and arguments for or against the granting of the application.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1970.

Approved May 26, 1970.

CHAPTER 739

(House Bill 166)

AN ACT to add new Section 551A(c) to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Shoplifting," to follow immediately after Section 551A(b) thereof and to provide ~~immunity~~ as A DEFENSE to civil liability for a merchant, agent or employee of the merchant who detains or arrests a person or persons for the crime of shoplifting as defined in Section 551A and who had probable cause to detain or cause the arrest of said person or persons as to shoplifting.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That new Section 551A(c) be and it is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Shoplifting," to follow immediately after Section 551A(b) thereof and to read as follows: