

31.

It is the intention of this Article that judicial review as herein provided for shall in all instances include the right to appeal to the Maryland Court of Appeals from the decision of any Circuit Court or equity court of Baltimore City.

32. Severability.

The provisions of this Article are severable, and if any of its provisions are held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions.

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

Approved April 22, 1970

CHAPTER 241

(House Bill 285)

AN ACT to add new Sections 718 through 731, inclusive, to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," to follow immediately after Section 717 thereof, and to be under the new subtitle "Wetlands"; and to repeal Section 485 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title and subtitle, "Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Rivers, Harbors, etc.,"; and to repeal Sections 45, 46 and 47 of Article 54 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Hall of Records," subtitle "Land Patents," to provide a State policy for the preservation of wetlands in the State; to regulate the filling and dredging of wetlands; TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS; to authorize the Secretary of Natural Resources to prohibit certain activities on specified wetlands; to provide for an inventory of PRIVATE wetlands; to provide certain protections to riparian owners; and generally dealing with both State and private wetlands; and to repeal sections generally dealing with the removal of sand and gravel, ownership of accretions, improvements on lands bounding navigable waters, and the liability of riparian owners, with the general context of said sections to be incorporated into the new Sections 718 through 731, inclusive.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 718 through 731, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," to follow immediately after Section 717 thereof, to be under the new subtitle "Wetlands," and all to read as follows:*