

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Sections 675 through 682 be and they are hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1967 Replacement Volume, 1969 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Mining," to follow immediately after Section 674 thereof and to be under the same title and subtitle, and to be under a new subheading "Abandoned Mine Drainage Control Act of 1970," all to read as follows:*

675.

It is the intention of the General Assembly to provide for the restoration of State waters affected by pollution from abandoned mines to the quality necessary to support fish and other aquatic life, recreation, and other beneficial purposes. To accomplish this objective, the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources is hereby expressly authorized to acquire and rehabilitate land occupied or degraded by abandoned deep and strip mines so that such land does not contribute to water pollution, and to take whatever other measures are necessary to prevent, control, and abate water pollution from abandoned mining areas.

676.

As used in this subheading:

(a) *"Costs" shall include the costs of acquisition, improvement, development, rehabilitation, construction, reconstruction and development of land and facilities and the financing thereof, including the cost of engineering and legal services, appraisals, plans, specifications, surveys, investigations, feasibility studies, estimates of costs and of revenues, and other necessary or incidental capital expenditures.*

(b) *"Studies" means the collection, analysis, and preparation of information, alternatives, and recommendations in order that the State or its political subdivisions may singly or jointly determine a course of action to meet the purposes of this subheading.*

(c) *"Land" means real property, including improvements, rights of way, water, riparian or other vested rights, easements, privileges, and any other estate or interest in real property.*

(d) *"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.*

(e) *"Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.*

677.

(a) *The Board of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to issue a State loan to be known as the "Mine Reclamation and Water Quality Restoration Loan," in the aggregate amount of five million dollars (\$5,000,000). The certificates evidencing said loan may be issued all at one time or in groups from time to time, as hereinafter provided. All of said certificates evidencing said loan or any group thereof, shall be issued according to a maturity plan so worked out as to discharge the principal represented by said cer-*